

**Thank you, M. President,**

This is a statement of the Federation for Women and Family Planning on behalf of the Great Coalition for Equality and Choice from Poland.

We welcome the May 2018 report of the Working Group on Discrimination Against Women in Law and in Practice on reasserting equality and countering rollbacks. We echo the concerns raised in it, in particular around the backlash against sexual and reproductive health and rights which results in additional barriers to access legal and safe abortion. We look forward to the Working Group's visit to Poland announced and expect it will contribute to the strengthening of women and girls' rights, which is now particularly needed.

We also welcome the recent joint statement by the CEDAW and the CRPD Committees reaffirming that access to safe and legal abortion, as well as related services and information are essential aspects of all women's reproductive health, including women with disabilities. We agree with the Committees that States should recognize women's decisions about their own bodies as personal and private, and we call on States to place women's bodily autonomy at the centre of policy and law-making in all matters, including sexual and reproductive health and rights.

In the light of the upcoming Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion we stress the necessity and urgency to address the human rights violations arising from the criminalization of abortion and the denial of access to safe and legal abortion services. We join a collective voice calling on governments across the world to respect, protect and fulfil the right to access safe and legal abortion services and post-abortion care.