



OFFICIAL HYBRID SIDE-EVENT

Standing Up for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: Protecting Global Gains and Mobilizing for The Future

Co-hosted by Canada, Argentina, and the UN Population Fund

Tuesday, July 12, 2022 | 13:00-14:30 EDT

Hybrid: Online via Zoom |
In-Person at the Permanent Mission of Canada to the UN,
466 Lexington Avenue, 20th floor

Please register here by Friday, July 8: <https://forms.gle/Wz97BnJE9Yv5tuDv6>

Context

As the COVID-19 pandemic enters its third year, its devastating impacts continue to ripple across all aspects of life. For women and girls in all their diversity, these impacts have been disproportionate, exposing and deepening existing inequalities and vulnerabilities across social, political and economic planes. There is evidence of rollbacks in gender equality across all aspects of women's lives from their economic security and vulnerabilities as frontline workers, to their increasing responsibilities in unpaid care work and lost learning due to school closures for children and adolescents.

We are also seeing increasing rates of gender based violence, increased restrictions and lack of access to critical health care services. In particular, women and girls' access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) continues to be curtailed due to lockdowns and limitations on service delivery, diversion of health resources, and de-prioritization of women's health investments. At the same time, the world has seen a sharp rise in anti-progressive ideologies and ever-increasing legal restrictions that limit women's rights and bodily autonomy. The combined impact of these regressions warrants examination, as we look to protect and advance global SRHR goals.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development puts the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at the heart of all its Goals and targets, noting that, "the

achievement of full human potential and of sustainable development is not possible if one half of humanity continues to be denied its full human rights and opportunities.” At this year’s HLPF, with SDG 5 under review, Canada, Argentina, UNFPA and their partners will seek to reinforce the importance of SDG target 5.6, Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, as foundational to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

Objectives

- Reinforce the importance of achieving SDG target 5.6 “Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences”.
- Discuss the central role of comprehensive SRHR in advancing gender equality and promoting and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Explore emerging risks to SRHR, including COVID-19 impacts, the rise in anti-progressive ideologies, and threat of legislation that restricts women’s health and reproductive rights.
- Share experiences, lessons learned and best practices on ensuring increased access to SRHR for women and girls; hear from those with lived experience.
- Highlight new and innovative financing mechanisms and legal frameworks to ensure support for comprehensive SRHR is prioritized in resource-constrained contexts.

Programme

Moderator

- Hon. Anita Vandenberg, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development, Canada

Speakers:

- Hon. Karina Gould, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development of Canada (TBC)
- Hon. Elizabeth Gómez Alcorta, Minister of Women, Genders and Diversity, Argentina
- Ms. Diene Keita, Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- Ms. Nancy Northup, President and CEO of the Center for Reproductive Rights
- Dr. Bwire Chirangi, Medical Director, Shirati Hospital, Tanzania
- Ms. Hélène Hlungbo, President of the Young People’s Action Movement, Youth Champion of the Association Beninoise pour la Promotion de la Famille (ABPF)
- Ms. Myriam Dagher, Research Assistant, American University of Beirut