

Statement by Pinar Ilkcaracan, on behalf of Women for Women's Human Rights (WWHR) Turkey, Coalition for Sexual and Bodily Rights (CSBR) and Women's Major Group

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Thank you Ambassador Kamau and Ambassador Donoghue for this meeting.

We thank you very much for the recognition and inclusion of gender equality as a cross-cutting issue throughout the document and the reference to realization of gender equality in the preamble. We appreciate deeply that you have heard our voice.

We also thank you for the inclusion of references to the Beijing Platform for Action, the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the outcome documents of their respective reviews in paragraph 12.

We would like to ask for your support to retain these references in their entirety. Beijing, ICPD and the outcome documents of their reviews constitute two decades of negotiations, accumulated knowledge and experience guiding necessary action on gender equality, health, population and development. They serve as the basis and framework of goals 3 and 5.

If our hard-fought stand-alone goal on gender equality, along with its targets, is not placed within the general framework of Beijing, ICPD and their reviews, it will attain a rather much limited and inadequate quality. In that case, it will not be a step forward, but rather a step backward in women's and girls' decades of struggle for the realization of gender equality.

We thank you again for the historical success you have accomplished and your support in the last three years.