



To: UNFPA and UNICEF Regional Directors  
From: Diene Keita and Omar Abdi

March 13, 2023

RE: GLOBAL FORUM FOR ADOLESCENTS, 11-12 OCTOBER 2023

We are pleased to inform you about the preparations of the Global Forum for Adolescents (GFA) for October 2023, which is organized by the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) as part of the multi-year advocacy campaign 1.8 Billion Young People for Change. The Forum is co-produced and co-owned by young people and is aligned with “Our Common Agenda”. As the world’s largest-ever virtual gathering for adolescent health and well-being, it is expected to engage more than one million young people globally and aims to accelerate progress towards the Agenda 2030 and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to adolescent health and well-being. The Forum will be supported at the highest levels by Heads of State and Government and ministers, as well as by representatives of all 10 PMNCH constituencies – approximately 1,250 partner organizations from more than 130 countries in total.

One of the most important elements at the curtain-raiser was the launch of a year-long process to develop an “**Agenda for Action for Adolescents**”. This process is guiding the political advocacy efforts of all partners to strengthen national- and regional-based commitments and accountability for adolescent well-being at the SDG Summit in September 2023, the G20 Summit, under the Government of India’s Presidency in September 2023, the Global Forum for Adolescents in October 2023, the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Review in June 2024, and the Summit of the Future in September 2024.

A Global Forum for Adolescents will be critical to enhancing visibility, political support, and momentum for adolescents and youth well-being. This letter is to request your leadership with Country Representatives in supporting countries to engage adolescents in young people in the lead up to the Global Forum, and to support member states to report back on adolescent well-being in line with UN Agency supported frameworks and agreements aligned with A/C.3/76/L.11/Rev.1 (attached) and make commitments to advance the progress towards the SDGs with an adolescent-specific lens at the SDG Summit in September 2023, the G20 Summit in September 2023, the Global Forum for Adolescents in October 2023, the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Review in June 2024, and at other relevant gatherings.

As part of this request, we ask for your support in facilitating the inclusion of adolescent well-being as a focus area for review at the SDG Summit in September 2023 by reviewing the SDG targets in relation to adolescent well-being such as: SDG 2 (Zero hunger), SDG 3 (Good health and well-being), SDG 4 (Quality education), SDG 5 (Gender equality), SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth), and SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions), and include the review as part of the Member States’ national statements during the High-Level Political Forum in July 2023.

A full list of indicators is provided as an annex below.

We would like to request you to identify a focal point at regional level who can be kept informed about the Global Forum for Adolescents, and who can support the efforts to SDG reporting is inclusive of adolescents. Kindly communicate the contact details of the focal point and request for any further information or clarification to Will Zeck for UNPFA ([zeck@unfpa.org](mailto:zeck@unfpa.org)) and Anurita Bains for UNICEF ([abains@unicef.org](mailto:abains@unicef.org)).

We look forward to collectively advancing the important issues faced by adolescents and young people.

Sincerely,



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Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF



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**Annex 1.** List of SDG indicators relevant to adolescent health and well-being (blue are health related, green are multi-sectoral).

### GROUP 1 INDICATORS

- \* SDG 3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 10–14 years; aged 15–19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group
- \* SDG 3.b.1 Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national programme *[here, we would ask specifically for reporting of Proportion of 15-year-old adolescents covered by human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine (last dose in schedule), by sex]*
- \* SDG 4.1.2 Completion rate (primary education, lower secondary education, upper secondary education)
- \* SDG 16.2.3 Proportion of young women and men aged 18–29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18

### GROUP 2 INDICATORS

*[for these indicators, we would ask specifically for reporting by adolescent age (10-14, 15-19 years) and sex group]*

- \* SDG 1.1.1 Proportion of the population living below the international poverty line by sex, age, employment status and geographic location (urban/rural)
- \* SDG 1.2.1 Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age
- \* SDG 2.1.2 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)
- \* SDG 2.2.3 Prevalence of anaemia in women aged 15 to 49 years, by pregnancy status (percentage)
- \* SDG 3.1.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
- \* SDG 3.3.1 Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations
- \* SDG 3.4.2 Suicide mortality rate
- \* SDG 3.7.1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods
- \* SDG 3.a.1 Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older
- \* SDG 4.6.1 Proportion of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex
- \* SDG 5.3.2 Proportion of girls and women aged 15–49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age
- \* SDG 5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15–49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care
- \* SDG 8.6.1 Proportion of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment or training
- \* SDG 16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to (a) physical violence, (b) psychological violence and (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months
- \* SDG 16.2.1 Proportion of children aged 1–17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month