

MEMORANDUM

From: Director-General **To:** Regional Directors **Date:** 11 November 2022

Our ref: **Attention:**

Your ref: **Through:**

Originator: Director, UHL/MCA **Subject:** GLOBAL FORUM FOR ADOLESCENTS 2023

I am writing to inform you about the preparations of the Global Forum for Adolescents for the month of October 2023, which is being organized by the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) Adolescent and co-produced and co-owned by young people, and aligned to Our Common Agenda. It will unite adolescents and young people with policymakers and 1250 PMNCH partner organizations from more than 130 countries and aims to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to adolescent health and well-being. Adolescents and young people and their advocates will be equipped and supported to demand greater policy and financing commitments for adolescent health and well-being.

In preparation for the Global Forum for Adolescents in 2023, PMNCH is hosting a “curtain raiser” event, a year out from the Forum, on the International Day of the Girl Child, on 11 October 2022. This virtual global event will unveil key programming and structural elements of the Forum and introduce major champions associated with the Forum. One of the most important elements of the curtain-raiser will be the launch of a year-long process to develop an “Agenda for Action for Adolescents”. This process will guide the political advocacy efforts of all partners to strengthen the country and regional-based commitments and accountability for adolescent well-being at the SDG Summit, the Summer for the Future, the Global Forum for Adolescents, and the G20 Summit, under India’s Presidency in November 2023 and the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) regional reviews in 2024.

As we enter the United Nations Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals, the largest adolescent population, comprised of 1.8 billion young people aged 10-24, must be prioritized. Stronger cooperation and joint efforts are needed to address cross-cutting issues affecting adolescents and youth, such as gender inequalities, mental health, child and early marriage, violence, sexual violence, adolescent pregnancy, poverty, hunger, and the digital divide, and employability. We need to unite to protect, promote, respect, and fulfil adolescents’ and youth’s rights to well-being, even more so given the devastating impact of COVID-19 on adolescents and youth worldwide.

A Global Forum for Adolescents will be critical to enhancing visibility, political support, and momentum for adolescents and youth well-being. Previous similar cross-regional initiatives included High-level Sessions on Universal Health Access, HIV, and Non-Communicable Diseases. These initiatives successfully brought high-level government attention and political and financial commitment to specific issues.

cc: WRs

This memo is to request your leadership in supporting Member States to report back on adolescent well-being in line with A/C.3/76/L.11/Rev.1 (attached) and make commitments to advance adolescent related SDGs at the SDG Summit and the Summit for the Future in September 2023, the Global Forum for Adolescents in 2023 and the G20 Summit, in November 2023, and the ICPD review in 2024. As part of this request, we would like to request for your support in facilitating the inclusion of adolescent well-being as a focus area for review at the SDG Summit in 2023 by reviewing SDG targets related to adolescent well-being such as:

- i. SDG 2: Zero hunger;
- ii. SDG 3: Good health and well-being;
- iii. SDG 4: Quality education;
- iv. SDG 5: Gender equality;
- v. SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth;
- vi. and SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions.

A complete list of indicators is provided as an Annex.

I would like to request that you identify a focal point that can be kept informed about further developments and can support Member States in this endeavour. The focal point's contact details can be sent to Dr Anshu Banerjee, Director, MCA (banerjeea@who.int), who would also be available to provide any additional information or clarification that may be required.



Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

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