

## **Civil Society Statement on Review and Refinement (II) delivered by Verity McGivern, HelpAge International and the Stakeholder Group on Ageing**

### **Afternoon session 17 November 2016**

I speak on behalf of civil society with comments ahead of the discussion tomorrow on refinement and review of indicators.

On 5.6.2, which was included in this round of refinements, we reject the age bracket of 15-49.

There is a host of gynecological health challenges in later life that are entirely ignored by a sole focus on women of childbearing age. Furthermore, adolescents under 15 must have access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education.

During the open consultation on refinements, concerns and questions about the age brackets comprised over a quarter of all comments received on this indicator.

We recommend removing the inclusion of “men” in the refinement of the indicator. Women and girls face challenges and risks in relation to their sexual and reproductive health and rights and are the target of historical discrimination regarding bodily integrity and autonomy that men and boys do not experience.

This indicator must be moved to Tier II, as solid baseline data and methodologies exist and are supported by UN agencies.

The present round of refinement was limited to indicators raised in the UNSC debate. However, other indicators are not aligned to targets or require considerable work.

We support UNESCO’s submission recommending additional indicators for completion and free education under target 4.1. The indicators must capture the full agreed cycle of completion of 12 years of free, equitable, quality education. We ask you to reconsider the inclusion of early grade assessment since standardized testing of small children can undermine child wellbeing and creativity and runs counter to their right to play.

Target 2.2 specifically references the nutritional status of adolescents, pregnant and lactating women and older persons. However both indicators under this target cover only children. This must be expanded.

We trust that a clear roadmap will be put in place to ensure that these issues are not lost in the rush to finalize the indicator framework. Civil society looks forward to hearing more in tomorrow’s session on refinement and review of indicators.

In particular, we hope to leave tomorrow with:

- A clear roadmap and timeline for the overall first review process between now and 2020
- Commitments to broad consultation and open decision making on the selection of indicators for review and refinement, in addition to consultation on proposals once indicators are selected
- And finally, clear criteria for proposed refinements that ensure refinements only serve to increase the level of ambition, avoid rolling back on commitments and ensure that decisions about indicators for review are made on a purely technical basis.