



Recognition of Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights as a policy in LYMEC

Submitted by ...

Considering that:

- MDG 5 (to improve maternal health by 75% by 2015) is the most off track of all the millennium development goals (MDGs). No significant progress has been made since 1990. By 2006 the ratio of maternal mortality declined by only 6%; (*UNFPA - Guttmacher - adding it up 2009*)
- About 20 million have unsafe abortions each year, and three million of the estimated 8.5 million who need care for subsequent health complications do not receive it. 70000 women die of the consequences of unsafe abortions every year; (*UNFPA - Guttmacher adding it up 2009*);
- There are 33 million people in the world living with HIV, and there is an annual 8 million shortfall in condoms needed to provide adequate protection (IPPF - contraception at a crossroad 2009);
- Even though HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health and rights are interlinked, it seems that budget allocations have favoured HIV/AIDS and neglected sexual and reproductive health and rights;
- Sex education and access to family planning is integral to reducing maternal mortality rates and the number of unsafe abortions;

Believing that

- Everyone, including young people, has the right to make free and informed choices about their sexual and reproductive lives. this includes the right to information, services, and supplies necessary to implement those choices;
- Youth participation in decision is essential, taking into account the largest youth population in the world's history - one in four people are under 25 years old and 1.06 billion people are aged between 19 and 25;
- It is not possible to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), especially the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, if we do not tackle reproductive health issues; as a crucial part of economic development. This means intensifying efforts to promote women's rights, gender equality and implement greater investment in education and health, including reproductive health and family planning; and promoting the economic independence and empowerment of women;
- Everyone, independently of his/her sexual orientation, is entitled to attain the highest standards of sexual and reproductive health and express his/her sexual identity free from coercion and criminalisation;

Concludes that:

- Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights should be promoted as well as an element of equal opportunity and development;

- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) should be eradicated entirely where it exists worldwide;
- Meeting the unmet need for Family Planning and providing the recommended package of maternal health care is cost effective: It saves the live of the mother and the child, and saves society money for medical care.

Calls upon,

- The LYMEC bureau to properly propagate the Cairo Programme of Action (where goals and demands on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights are described and explained) at ELDR Congres in Finland,
- The LYMEC bureau to publicity promote Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights policies through campaigns