PREPARATIONS FOR THE 2023 SDG SUMMIT
THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

KEY ASKS TO MEMBER STATES FOR POLITICAL DECLARATION

**Aim**

The purpose of this document is to request Member States to support the inclusion of language on the importance of investing in the comprehensive well-being of adolescents as one of the priority areas in the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit.

**Key Asks**

The September 2023 SDG Summit and the midterm review of the Agenda 2030 implementation is a critical opportunity to address the well-being of adolescents and youth globally, who have until now been omitted from the 2030 Agenda.

As the world’s largest alliance for women’s, children’s and adolescents’ health and well-being with 1,450 partner organizations, PMNCH welcomes the preparations for the SDG Summit and calls on Member States and partners to place adolescents at the centre of the SDG review process.

We ask that all member-states participating in the SDG Summit endorse the following actions to protect adolescents in all their diversity, using principles of equity and equality, promoting the multidimensional nature of adolescent well-being in the post-Covid-19 and climate change-affected world through data-driven strengthened political commitment, policies and domestic resource mobilization and financing, supported by Official Development Assistance (ODA):

1. **Strengthen political commitment and financing for mainstreaming adolescent well-being**
   1.1 Increase investments for policies, programmes and service delivery for adolescent well-being
   1.2 Commit to prioritizing adolescent well-being in resolutions submitted in UN processes, including the SDG Summit in September 2023.
   1.3 Invest in digital technology to improve access to information and services, strengthen the capacity of partners to develop digital tools, and strengthen communication with adolescents to foster their safe participation and further their well-being.

2. **Strengthen data collection and monitoring of adolescent well-being for greater accountability for adolescent well-being**
   2.1 Ensure the collection of more and higher-quality data on adolescents that can be disaggregated by age, gender, disability status, location, marital status and wealth, among others to guide action, based on the agreed, comprehensive set of indicators for monitoring adolescent well-being
   2.2 Strengthen national SDG strategies through participation in the regular Voluntary National Review process and SDG-related reporting, and specifically ensure that the latter includes an adolescent focus within reporting.
3. Implement adolescent well-being policies and programmes
   3.1 Implement/Establish adolescent-friendly services at local levels and mediate barriers to access of pre-existing services.
   3.2 Advocate for the integration of adolescent well-being as a major programming area in national and subnational implementation budget plans, using a multisectoral and multi-stakeholder lens to implement the Adolescent Well-being Definition and Conceptual Framework including:
      • 3.2.1 Supporting adolescents to stay in school, and invest in education and skill development through targeted programmes and policies for all and especially for those most at risk of dropping-out and non-enrollment;
      • 3.2.2 Prevent stigma and discrimination, and sexual and gender-based violence toward adolescents through protection, sensitization, and education programmes.
      • 3.2.3 Fostering connectedness, positive values and healthy relationships through cohesive programming that focuses on creating enabling environments at multiple levels e.g., the community level, familial level, school level and digital spaces.
   3.3 Review and regularly update existing policies that relate to adolescent well-being to ensure that they are inclusive and rights-based and supported by appropriate implementation strategies and evidence.

4. Promote agency and resilience through empowerment and engagement of adolescents and youth in all their diversity to ensure no one is left behind
   4.1 Endorse, integrate and mainstream the recommendations of Global Consensus Statement on Meaningful Adolescent and Youth Engagement in national, subnational community programmes, especially during emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic.
   4.2 Actively engage and empower adolescents and youth in all their diversity in programme and policy design, implementation, programme governance, programme monitoring and evaluation.

5. Capacity building for partners to respond adequately to adolescents' needs, preventing stigma and discrimination, and sexual and gender-based violence toward adolescent
   5.1 Train professionals, activists, caregivers and community members and young people themselves to promote well-being, alleviate stigma, prevent discrimination and reach the most vulnerable.
   5.2 Train young people to be peer educators to raise awareness of adolescent well-being resources and ensure peers are equipped with the necessary skills required for achieving a state of well-being.

**RECOMMENDED LANGUAGE FOR CONSIDERATION**

PMNCH calls on Member States to endorse the following recommended language on adolescent well-being in the Political Declaration outcome document of the SDG Summit.

We present the following language for your kind consideration and for facilitating your inputs into the elements paper of the Political Declaration. We hope that despite the short deadline for inputs, you will be able to kindly support this request to submit comments to the Elements of the Political Declaration paper, ahead of the release of zero-draft of the document.
We recognize that the well-being of adolescents is critical to achieving sustainable development and acknowledge the importance of adopting a whole-of-government approach to work together in a coordinated and collaborative manner to address the multiple and intersecting factors that impact adolescents, and we call for urgent and comprehensive action to ensure the physical, mental, and social well-being of adolescents.

We recognize that investments in adolescent well-being are not only a moral imperative but also a smart investment in the future of our societies, economies, and the planet, and call for sustainable and adequate funding for adolescent-focused programs and initiatives.

We recognize the need for evidence-based policies, programs, and interventions that are tailored to the specific needs and contexts of adolescents and call for increased investment in research and disaggregated data collection to better understand the challenges and opportunities for ensuring adolescent well-being.

As Member States, we commit to prioritize adolescent well-being in national development plans and strategies, and to integrate adolescent-specific indicators into the monitoring and reporting frameworks by meaningfully engaging adolescents and young people in the design, implementation, and monitoring of policies and programs that affect their well-being.

We reaffirm our commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and call for 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), with initial analysis to be shared within national statements during the High-Level Political Forum in July 2023.

We commit to working together to accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs and call for the inclusion of new adolescent and youth-focused indicators to measure the progress towards the SDGs, and to ensure that no one is left behind.

**BACKGROUND**

Today’s 1.8 billion adolescents and young people globally are critical agents of change needed to deliver on the ambition of the SDGs; they are today’s solution and tomorrow’s leaders. Ensuring their health and well-being is critical to the achievement of a sustainable future for all. This will require cross-sectoral approaches to address the multi-dimensional nature of adolescent and youth development.

This unique, transformational time in life requires nuanced, tailored and integrated efforts that provide targeted solutions and support human development so that adolescents can obtain their rights and achieve their full potential.

**KEY STATISTICS**

Adolescents and young people face multiple and intersecting challenges to their well-being, heightened by climate change, conflict and the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2020, PMNCH and partners developed a definition and conceptual framework for Adolescent Well-being, based on five intersecting domains and 27 sub-domains:
1) Good health and optimum nutrition
2) Connectedness, positive values and contribution to society
3) Safety and a supportive environment
4) Learning, competence, education, skills and employability
5) Agency and resilience.

- An estimated 2,600 adolescents died each day in 2020, mostly from preventable or treatable causes – or 950,000 total in 2020. (Source)
- Road traffic injuries (RTIs) are the leading global cause of death for adolescent boys and the third leading cause of death for girls. Over 30% of road crash victims are children and adolescents under the age of 25. (Source)
- Globally, one in seven 10-19-year-olds experiences a mental disorder, accounting for 13% of the global burden of disease in this age group. Depression, anxiety and behavioural disorders are among the leading causes of illness and disability among adolescents. Suicide is the fourth leading cause of death among 15–19-year-olds. (Source)
- Approximately 12 million girls aged 15–19 years and at least 777,000 girls under 15 years give birth each year in developing regions. (Source). Complications during pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death for 15–19-year-old girls globally. (Source)
- Globally, one-fifth of young people (aged 15-24) are not in employment, education, or training (NEET). Young women are twice as likely as young men to have NEET status. (Source)

1.8 BILLION YOUNG PEOPLE FOR CHANGE CAMPAIGN

To mobilize in support of member-state action, PMNCH’s 1,400 partner organizations, including United Nations agencies, academics, and youth-led and youth-serving organizations, have launched the 1.8 Billion Young People for Change Campaign.

This multi-year advocacy campaign is co-owned, co-designed, and co-developed by young people and aims to mobilize action globally to advocate for what young people want in support of their current and future well-being and to stimulate greatly increased commitments for adolescents and their well-being from governments and their partners.

As part of this campaign, PMNCH will convene the Global Forum for Adolescents – the world’s largest-ever virtual gathering for adolescent well-being, on 11-12 October 2023. These efforts aim to facilitate youth participation in national, regional, and global decision-making, as called for in the Modalities Resolution of the Summit of the Future in 2024.

With eight years to reach the Sustainable Development Goals, and progress lagging far behind, the Global Forum for Adolescents will serve as a platform to bring together a diverse group of stakeholders to garner political and financial attention and commitments from countries to adopt policies and programs prioritizing investment in adolescents’ well-being – it will be a milestone moment for kickstarting policy shift and programme re-design at the country level.

Member States are encouraged to develop evidence-based policies, substantive strategies and costed implementation plans, leading to concrete, funded programmes for adolescent well-being, based on intentional multisectoral action. To ensure accountability, Member States are encouraged to commit to reporting on progress to adolescents at the SDG Summit in 2023 and regularly thereafter. Throughout all these steps, policy makers and practitioners from all relevant sectors must ensure that they keep adolescents, with all their diverse needs, talents and aspirations, at the centre of their work.