



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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# 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly

## Doha (Qatar), 6 – 10 April 2019



### Workshop on child, newborn and maternal health

#### Act now for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health: Lessons on health financing, legislation, and partnerships

Workshop co-organized by the IPU, WHO, and PMNCH

*Monday, 8 April 2019, 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.  
Salwa 1, Sheraton Convention Center*

#### **Concept note**

Concerted action in the past two decades has improved women's, children's and adolescents' health significantly but more remains to be done. Today, more than 830 women die from pregnancy- or childbirth-related complications every day, while 5.4 million children die every year from preventable causes such as prematurity, neonatal infections, pneumonia, diarrhea, or malaria. Adolescents continue to die in high numbers from causes ranging from road injuries to maternal health conditions. Despite global progress, there is a most pressing need for worldwide sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) interventions for women, children and adolescents.

Now is the time to act. Investing in women's, children's and adolescents' health will be central to achieving universal health coverage (UHC) and many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Indeed, the UHC goal of realizing the right to the highest attainable standard of health for all without financial hardship, including the SRHR, requires meeting the unique needs of women, girls and adolescents. Provision of a comprehensive SRHR package of services as part of UHC is both inexpensive and cost-effective, and will drive progress toward SDGs 3 (good health and well-being) and 5 (gender equality).

The Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health provides a roadmap to accelerate progress for women, children and adolescents to survive and thrive. Parliaments have a crucial role to play as determined, among others, in the 2012 [IPU resolution on access to health as a basic right](#) and its 2017 addendum, which define the actions they could take to improve the health outcomes of women, children and adolescents in their respective countries. The commitments include:

- Generation of political will and the allocation of appropriate resources to achieve the goals of the Global Strategy.
- Passing of legislation that guarantee equal access to services, and provide affordable essential health services for women and children.
- Particular focus on and monitoring of women's, children's and adolescents' health and wellbeing in relevant committees in parliament.
- Passing of laws criminalizing all forms of violence against women and children.

#IPU140

### Session objective

This session will be open to all parliamentarians and delegates in attendance at the IPU Assembly who have a special interest in health and in particular that of women, children and adolescents. The three panels will provide a space for learning through the exchange of examples of parliamentary action on women's, children's and adolescents' health and the promotion of parliamentary sharing of best practices, strategies and challenges in diverse national contexts. Specifically, the session will provide insights on:

- Improving health financing, more specifically for women's, children's and adolescents' health, including sexual and reproductive health.
- Passing legislation supportive to improved women's, children's and adolescents' health outcomes, and ensuring adherence to these laws.
- Building partnerships with UHC and SRHR communities and creating cross-party parliamentary movements and structures in support of improved health outcomes.