



The Republic of Serbia
MINISTRY OF FAMILY WELFARE AND DEMOGRAPHY

Belgrade, September 4th 2023

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***Subject:** Committing to Adolescent Well-being and accelerating on related SDG priorities in response to the UN Secretary General's Call for SDG Transformation Commitments at the SDG Summit 2023, and in support of the 2023 Global Forum for Adolescents*

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, 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.

We commit to strengthen the government's approach to improving adolescent well-being and accelerate the achievement of related SDG priorities for adolescents and young people as a smart investment in the future of our societies, economies, and the planet. We commit to prioritize adolescent well-being, and related SDG priorities for young people in national development plans and strategies, to ensure disaggregated data collection to better understand the challenges and opportunities for ensuring adolescent well-being, 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.

Our commitment to adolescent well-being is:

- in response to the United Nations Secretary-General's call for national and global commitments to deliver the 'Rescue Plan for People and Planet' at the SDG Summit 2023 that will help drive SDG transformation for inclusion and sustainability in the years ahead; and
- in support of the Global Forum for Adolescents, the world's largest-ever convening of stakeholders - youth networks, governments, private sector, donors, the United Nations agencies and others - to raise

attention to the need for immediate action to advance the major determinants of adolescent well-being, as a major milestone within the 1.8 Billion Young People for Change campaign, convened by PMNCH.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Serbia we commit to:

- implement national programs addressed to the development and maintaining of healthy living styles of adolescents, including support to sexual, reproductive and mental health;
- provide new programs for the improvement of safety of young people in order to decrease the number of traffic accidents involving youth;
- eradicate violence among adolescents;
- develop measures for the engagement of adolescents in environmental protection activities;
- subsidize young people in terms of self-sufficient and independent dwelling;
- support to the social inclusion of adolescents without discrimination and covering all levels – from national to local – their participation in public life, in decision making process and reaffirmation of principles of equality and life in dignity.

In support of our Commitment/s, we refer to adopted policy documents, namely: Youth Strategy of the Republic of Serbia from February 2023 with its Plan of Action from July 2023, Strategy for the Prevention and Protection from Discrimination of 2022, which has recognized young people as sensitive category of persons in need, Strategy for the Prevention and Combating of Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence for the Period of 2021-2025, but also Law on Adolescents from 2011 stipulating, among others, set up of Governmental Council for Youth, Youth Offices at the level of local authorities and Agency for Adolescents on national level.

As result, our commitment is directly aligned to the domains of the domains of the Adolescent well-being framework regarding, in particular, connectedness, positive values, and contribution to society, safety and a supportive environment and agency and resilience.

Our commitment is aimed at accelerating progress towards the following SDGs:

- SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) together with its 3.7 – Universal Access to Sexual and Reproductive Care, Family Planning and Education,
- SDG 8.7 (Promote Youth Employment, Education and Training), and
- Almost entire SDG 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions coping with violence and its prevention.

By making this commitment we agree to register our commitments on the SPG Summit Acceleration and Accountability Platform. We commit to systematically report on the implementation of these commitments through existing follow-up and review processes including the Voluntary National Review Process.

Sincerely,

Prof. ~~Darija~~ ~~Krstic~~ ~~Tepavcevic~~, Ph.D.

Minister of Family Welfare and Demography

