



Plan International  
Block A, Dukes Court  
Duke Street  
Woking, Surrey  
United Kingdom  
GU21 5BH

Tel +44 1483 755155  
www.plan-international.org

9 October 2023

Stephen Omollo – Plan International CEO  
Woking, United Kingdom

***Subject: Commitment to raising the voices and demands of adolescent girls as critical partners on the path to achieving gender equality***

*Committing to Adolescent Well-being 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*

The well-being of adolescents and upholding and promoting their rights is both fundamental and critical to achieving sustainable development. Plan International supports working in partnership with adolescents to ensure their meaningful participation and access to decision-making spaces through adopting an approach that puts adolescents at the centre.

We support the call to strengthen investments in adolescent well-being as it is 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 commit to prioritize adolescent well-being in our plans and strategies, to support disaggregated data collection to better understand the challenges and opportunities for ensuring adolescent well-being, and to integrate adolescent-specific indicators into our monitoring and reporting frameworks and meaningfully engage adolescents and young people in the design, implementation, and monitoring of policies and programs that affect their rights and well-being.

Our commitment to adolescent well-being is:

- in response to the United Nation's 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 UN 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 Plan International Inc., we commit to:

**Plan International commits to raising the voices and demands of adolescent girls as critical partners on the path to achieving gender equality. This includes within new and critical processes such as ICPD+30, Beijing+30 and Summit of the Future, at national, regional and global levels, where Plan International will tirelessly advocate and support meaningful participation of adolescent girls. In particular, Plan International commits to championing the rights and needs of marginalised adolescent girls to ensure that they are not overlooked and to ensure that they are systematically included at the decision-making table.**

Recognising the centrality of sexual and reproductive health and rights to achieving gender equality and sustainable development, Plan International also makes the following commitments:

### **Ensuring inclusive, age-and-gender responsive SRH services as part of universal health coverage**

Plan International is committed to ensuring that all adolescents have access to inclusive, age-and gender responsive sexual and reproductive health services, free from discrimination, coercion, violence and discrimination. To this end, Plan International has developed a guidance document and training package for health workers, that complements clinical training, and aims to address stigma towards adolescent sexuality. We have piloted this training package in Nepal and Jordan and commit to rolling it out within existing and new SRHR programmes, and working with likeminded partners to take it to scale.

In partnership with girls and young women, Plan International will also consistently advocate for the provision and resourcing of age- and gender-responsive SRH services to be included as part of health systems strengthening and universal health coverage (including in humanitarian settings) and the removal of legal and policy barriers which prevent adolescents from accessing SRH services.

### **Embedding a sex-positive approach**

Having endorsed the Pleasure Principles in January 2023, Plan International commits to deepening a sex-positive approach to its SRHR programming and influencing work. In the next two years we will 1) deepen our programming and influencing for sex-positive sexual and reproductive health and comprehensive sexuality education at national, regional and global levels; 2) integrate the Pleasure Principles in our foundational SRHR training package *'Conversations that Matter'* (which is being rolled out in all regions where Plan International works on SRHR); and 3) invest in approaches and tools that operationalise our recent research [Say it Out Loud: Sexual Wellbeing Matters](#). We are also implementing a 18-month long project **Embracing Pleasure** that will directly support our ambition to take a leading role in transforming young people's SRHR through applying an innovative sex-positive approach, working in collaboration with our pilot countries Bolivia, South Sudan and the Philippines, and in co-creation and co-leadership with young people.

### **Comprehensive sexuality education**

Plan International places comprehensive sexuality education at the heart of its SRHR work. We are committed to ensuring that all children, adolescents and young people have access to inclusive, age and gender-responsive comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) in and out of school settings, including in times of crisis. Plan International commits to developing a scalable best practice CSE programming and influencing model based on external evidence, Plan International's CSE standards, and Plan International's research and evidence into what works. Plan International will also continue to actively participate in the joint UNESCO/UNFPA Global Partnership Forum on CSE and continue to profile the CSE Accountability Tool as a means of holding governments to account for CSE commitments.

### **Supporting adolescent girls' activism and leadership**

Plan International will support girl- and youth-led groups in their SRHR activism, promoting their leadership and meaningful engagement in key decision-making spaces such as ICPD+30 and Beijing+30 and amplifying their demands. Plan International will also continue to call on donors to direct more resources to girl-led organisations and

movements - recognizing the inadequate levels of funding that currently reach these groups -and will leverage Plan International's Girls Get Equal campaign and innovative funding mechanisms such as the Equality Accelerator to raise the visibility of this issue and drive increased access to funding at the grass roots levels.

### **A Collaborative Initiative to Counter opposition and rollback to SRHR**

Recognising the risk of regression on SRHR in many contexts due to the rise of opposition movements and shrinking civic space, Plan International commits to a new initiative to develop a training package based on '**Strategies for SRHR influencing in restrictive contexts**' to support a collaborative effort in building capacity and confidence at the country level to put in practice effective strategies to advance SRHR influencing objectives in restricted contexts. This initiative will be piloted with Plan International and partners through training in at least 5 countries across different regions. Plan International also commits to continue working with external partners, coalitions, governments and other stakeholders to prevent regression on SRHR, particularly among adolescents and ensure the continued and necessary progress to ensure adolescent health and wellbeing.

Our commitment is directly aligned to the domains of the domains of the [Adolescent well-being framework](#):

1. Health and nutrition
2. Learning, competence, education, skills, and employability
3. Agency and resilience

Our commitment is aimed at accelerating progress towards the following [SDGs](#):

- SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

By making this commitment we agree to [register](#) our commitments on the [SDG Summit Acceleration and Accountability Platform](#). We commit to systematically report on the implementation of these commitments through existing follow-up and review processes including:

Plan International holds itself to a higher standard of meaningful youth engagement and encourages partners to adhere to principles of meaningful youth engagement. Plan International strives to ensure space is given to adolescents and all communities we work with to inform and provide feedback on the services we deliver. Plan International offices also have Youth Advisory Panels (YAPs) who support country offices in their journey towards youth-centeredness. Annual assessments will be used to track Plan International's progress and journey towards meaningful young engagement and youth centeredness to inform learnings; improvements and best practice. Plan International's commitments align with the Global Advocacy Strategy through which they will continue to be implemented and reported on alongside our Annual Reporting shared within communities. Plan International also reports on its commitment to Generation Equality.

Sincerely,



**Stephen Omollo**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Plan International**