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**- SG Strategy side event on *Every Woman, Every Child*, March 15 – 1.15 pm – Trusteeship Council UN**

- And, importantly, ensuring women’s health and rights organizations are integral to planning and decision-making
- In 2013, almost 60% of all new HIV infections among young people occurred among teenage girls and young women. This means almost 1,000 young women infected every day;
- Worldwide, only 21% of teenage girls aged between 15 and 19 have a comprehensive knowledge of HIV.
- Involuntary and coerced sterilization and abortion among women living with HIV has been reported in at least 14 countries worldwide.
- Empower women and girls by ensuring their access to education, health and opportunities for economic development, providing them with tools that enable them recognize themselves as subjects of rights.

Firstly, thank you for inviting me.

The Women Won't Wait Campaign was created in 2006 to denounce the evidences about the interfaces of GBV and AIDS. Ten years later, the reality is, women and girls *are* still waiting. They still have to go first to a police station to report a rape before accessing what should be *emergency* health services; they are still stigmatized by providers, blamed by husbands or community for HIV – or prosecuted under criminalization laws; they are waiting in court for a *legal*, safe abortion –whether the unwanted pregnancy is the result of intimate partner violence and/or because of concerns with HIV transmission.

They are still facing forced sterilization of women living with AIDS is reported, at least, in 14 countries nowadays.

To address some of these problems, in 2014, supported by UN Women, the WWW Campaign begin a project in Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, Peru and Uruguay where we found a **lack of coordination** between programs and services for HIV and violence;

**In all countries there is NO coordination between strategic sectors**, such as Ministries of Health, Women/Gender, Education and Justice; there is no **monitoring system** on the links between HIV and violence, so, we have **no official statistics** on the matter.

These are concerning results. The lack of a multi-sectoral responses is an obstacle to the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and without significantly increasing political will billions of women, girls and adolescents will be left behind.

Therefore I trust the Secretary General Strategy will bring these issues to the forefront in implementation. Because women *cannot* wait any longer and the costs of inaction are too high for us and for everyone committed to the achievement of the SDGs.

### **About the Zika.**

Zika is now another problem over women's shoulders. Brazil is under a strong political and economic crises and lacking capacity to adequately respond to the zika crises. We have a poor sanitation system, our health services are collapsing, women are the ones taking care *at home* of their families, while also getting sick.

There is no short-term solution but, again, we, the feminist women stood up. No, we will not wait and will not allow other people to say us to abstain from sex or decide when to get pregnant as a means of Zika prevention. Instead we are mobilizing resources to protect, once again, our sexual and reproductive health and rights. Therefore we are pushing to better access to information, contraception, repellents and sanitation; we are demanding the expansion of the social protection for mothers and their babies– but also demanding the expansion of the abortion law, so pregnant women with zika, can interrupt the pregnancy, in case she wants;

### **The question about accountability.**

Besides the obvious role we have of keeping our government accountable, I see three other important areas.

**First:** in light of the growing trend of privatization of services and non-transparent public-private partnerships, we can help to hold the private sector accountable to human rights, gender equality and health standards; we are especially relevant in monitoring the quality of these services and combatting corruption – and today the spirit of Berta Cáceres is with us today to remind us that, because of this role, sometimes, human rights defenders pay with their own lives.

**Second** we have the role of mobilizing independent reports to identify and promote actions, and bring media and public attention; **and third, we have the role and capacity** to influence –and many times inspire–government's decisions. We are the ones that can put reality on the table, when governments are lost in bargains, interests and bureaucracy.

Unfortunately we don't always succeed. For instance, while we have SDG targets on ending violence against women and children – I wish to remind this audience that, despite our efforts at the High-Level Task Force for ICPD we do not have any corresponding action under the health goal – and, in fact, adolescents and civil society organizations are mentioned only once across the 17 SDGs and targets.

So, I congratulate the Secretary-General leadership in placing adolescents front and center of your Strategy at a time when many of our governments have failed to do so. **It is my sincere hope that its monitoring and independent reports be utilized to inform overall monitoring and accountability for the SDGs.** The vision of a day when all women and adolescent girls everywhere are able to fully exercise their sexual and reproductive rights is my biggest aspiration for successful implementation of the SG's strategy.

Thank you.