

Cervical Cancer Action & NCD Taskforce consultation call on the zero draft Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health

On 5 June 2015, three participants representing two networks (Cervical Cancer Action and NCD Taskforce) and the views of 24 member organisations participated in teleconference consultation on the zero draft Global Strategy.

A summary of the general messages emerging from the call were:

- **Women's health** should be presented as **more than just reproductive health**.
 - "Women have health needs outside of their reproductive lives"
- The Global Strategy **should be clearer on what they mean by certain terms**: particularly women's health. From the Zero Draft it is not clear whether this is comprehensive or just limited to SRH for women of reproductive age.
 - "It's not clear what the document means when it says women's health"
- The Zero Draft **"reads somewhat passively"**. Language should empower women to influence change.
 - Section IV: "I don't see active participation by women of all ages".
 - "What is the action expected of women themselves?"
 - Text should reference the contribution women have made towards the MDGs.
- The Strategy should **be explicit about lessons learned from MDGs**.
 - "I want to see a clear indication of what we've learned about what's worked" during the MDG era.
 - "What are the lessons learned from past efforts and how can we apply that going forward?"

Participants also delved into section-specific comments:

- Section I:
 - Text should be clear on the major differences between GS1 and GS2; and the purpose of the updated GS; and should justify the broadening of approach.
 - P.5, paragraph 5: Justify claims that the Strategy is transformational and a frontrunner platform.
 - "Transformational how?"
- Section II: The graphic is unclear on the linkages between inputs and outputs. Demonstrating this would support the "big returns" message more effectively.
- Section III: The statistics presented in infographics should be reintegrated into the storyline.
 - Statistics "have to be handled rather than stuffed into a box".
- Section IV:

- p.16, figure 7 is very SRH focused, but issues such as maternal mortality and NCDs are “inextricably linked”. Figure 7 should indicate these linkages.
- P.19: Action 6 should emphasise scale-up rather than innovation.