

Annexure:**Activity Chart for Advocacy Campaign for Maternal Mortality Resolution at the Human Rights Council 11 session 2-18 June, 2009 UN/Geneva**

S.No	Target Audience	Identification	Activity	Responsibility
1	NGOs & UN Agencies	NGOs working on Women Rights & Reproductive Health Rights	Call to action from NGO's working for the women rights as well as reproductive health rights. Joint statement at the end of the meeting Press Release	We-Act
2	Media	Electronic Media: Dawn TV, Geo TV, Hum TV, Dunya , Express Print Media: Dawn, The News Daily Times, Nation	Engagement of Electronic and Print Media to highlight the issue of an urgent importance.	Communication Department
3	Parliamentarians	Women Caucus and active Members of Parliament Ms. Shehnaz Wazir Ali Special Advisor to PM on Social Sector	Lobbying with the prominent Parliamentarians to take up the issue on urgent basis at Party and Parliament level One to one meeting with Parliamentarians to take the issue. Letters to relevant Ministries	Country Representative, WPF-P NATPOW We-Act
4	Ministries	MOFA, MOPW, MOHR, MOH 1. Mr. Shah Mehmood Qureshi Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs 2. Dr. Firdous Aashiq Awan Federal Minister of Population Welfare 3. Syed Mumtaz Alam Gillani Federal Minister for Human Rights 4. Mir Aijaz Hussain Jakhrani Federal Minister for Health	Advocacy at the ministerial level to take up the issue. Letter to Ministers for urging Government to Support Resolution on Maternal Mortality and Human Rights on Priority Basis.	Country Representative, WPF-P NATPOW We-Act
5	Letter to Pakistans' Permanent mission to UN HRC, Geneva	Mr. Zamir Akram Ambassador to UN	Appeal to take up the issue at the HRC	WPF & NGOs

Official Letter Written by the Special Assistant to the PM to the DG MOFA of the Government of Pakistan to endorse the Resolution at the UN HRC



Special Assistant to the
Prime Minister

No.SAPM/1-2009

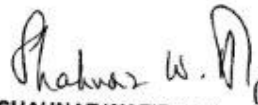
Government of Pakistan
Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Social Sector
Prime Minister's Secretariat (Public)

Dated: 4th June, 2009

Subject: UN Human Rights Council - Urging Government to Support Resolution on Maternal Mortality and Human Rights on Priority Basis

On March 16th 2009, 84 Governments in a joint statement delivered to the UN Human Rights Council reaffirmed their commitment to addressing 'maternal mortality as a human rights issue' and called upon the UN Human Rights Council to take decisive action to contribute to the existing efforts to address maternal mortality. This joint statement included countries from all regions as signatories, and represents one of the largest joint intergovernmental statements delivered to the Council. Pakistan has yet not endorsed the resolution though it is a member of the Human Rights Council. I strongly recommend that our government should contribute to the intergovernmental efforts by supporting the Resolution in the meeting of Human Rights Council scheduled in Geneva from June 2-18, 2009 by designating our permanent delegation at Geneva to participate in the meeting.

I would appreciate if I am kept informed on action taken on this matter.


(SHAHNAZ WAZIR ALI)

Director General
United Nations,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Government of Pakistan,
Islamabad

o/c

Letters to Ministry Representatives for the endorsement of Maternal Mortality Resolution

May 26, 2009

Syed Mumtaz Alam Gillani
Federal Minister for Human Rights
Government of Pakistan
Islamabad



Subject: UN Human Rights Council - Urging Governments to Support Resolution on Maternal Mortality and Human Rights on Priority Basis.

Dear Gillani Sahab,

Greetings from World Population Foundation, Pakistan!

A brief overview of the Resolution on Maternal Mortality and Human Rights provides that on March 16th 2009, 84 Governments in a joint statement delivered to the UN Human Rights Council reaffirmed their commitment to addressing **'maternal mortality as a human rights issue'** and called upon the UN Human Rights Council to take decisive action to contribute to the existing efforts to address maternal mortality. This joint statement included countries from all regions as signatories, and represents one of the largest joint intergovernmental statements delivered to the Council. Pakistan has not yet endorsed the resolution though it is a member of the Human Rights Council.

The 84 Governments called on the Council to take collective and concrete action on maternal mortality during its last session. The statement follows from the first debate that the Council held on this topic in June 2008:

- The statement includes a reaffirmation that maternal mortality is a human rights issue and that the magnitude of the problem calls for the renewal of political will to address it.
- The 84 Governments call on the Council to take collective and concrete action on maternal mortality during its session from June 2- 18, 2009 in Geneva.
- The idea is that this resolution would be the continuation of the process that started with the 2008 panel on maternal mortality and that would lay the ground for further work of the Council and its mechanisms on this issue.

The resolution establishes poverty as a contributing factor in many deaths and, accordingly, recognizes the need for partnerships on maternal health through development programmes, dialogues, international cooperation and technical assistance. At the same time, it also recognizes the need for all States to respect their human rights obligations.

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World Population Foundation (WPF) is a Dutch organization, founded in 1987, that aims to encourage sexual and reproductive health and rights throughout the world. WPF strongly believes that the ability to break out of the cycle of poverty starts with the freedom of choice. WPF supports projects by local organizations in developing countries, enabling individuals to make their own decisions about their sexuality and the number of children they desire.

As a start, the Human Rights Council has been urged to contribute to existing efforts by:

1. Identifying the human rights dimensions of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity;
2. Reviewing and considering information on discrimination in the provision of and access to healthcare for women and discrimination against women in respect of their right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children.
3. Talking about the human rights implications of maternal mortality and morbidity in the universal periodic review and in treaty body dialogues, including the exchange of programmes and policies that have successfully reversed the trend of maternal deaths and injuries.
4. Requesting States to include women in decision-making about maternal health, including decisions on the design of local health care mechanisms, and to recognize women's right to skilled professional care before, during and after pregnancy and childbirth.

With this prologue, I take this opportunity to bring to your attention that Pakistan has an alarmingly high Maternal Mortality Rate (276 maternal deaths per 100,000 births) and it is estimated that every 30 minutes one Pakistani woman loses her life due to reproductive health complications! Most of these deaths are preventable. The failure to prevent them is an impediment to the universal realization of human rights, and could constitute a violation of human rights, including women's right to health, life, education, dignity, access to information and appropriate healthcare.

Government of Pakistan can contribute to existing efforts by supporting the Resolution in the next meeting of Human Rights Council to be held in Geneva from June 2-18, 2009. Most importantly, it is requested that Pakistan's permanent representative to the United Nations be advised to endorse 'Maternal Mortality Resolution' to ensure Pakistan's active commitment to this cause at the global level!

Please do contact us for any further details on the subject and share with us any progress in the matter.

Warm regards,


Qadeer Baig
Country Representative for Pakistan

June 16, 2009

Syed Mumtaz Alam Gillani
Federal Minister for Human Rights
Government of Pakistan
Islamabad

Subject: UN Human Rights Council - Urging Governments to Support Resolution on Maternal Mortality and Human Rights

Dear Gillani Sahab,

Greetings from World Population Foundation, Pakistan!

This is in reference to our previous letter dated 26th May, 2009 regarding the '**Resolution on Maternal Mortality and Human Rights**' at the **United Nations' Human Rights Council** and to **URGENTLY** request your support for this resolution as Pakistan has not yet endorsed the resolution though it is a member of the Human Rights Council.

The draft resolution titled as "**Preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and human rights**" was tabled Friday 12th June, 2009. The resolution will be acted upon this Thursday 18th June, 2009. This would be the first resolution on this issue at the Human Rights Council. Resolution acknowledges that maternal mortality is a human rights issue and the importance of international cooperation and assistance and that this is also a health and development issue. It requests the OHCHR to prepare a study on preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and human rights that would suggest to the Council what actions it can take to contribute to these existing efforts to combat maternal deaths

With this preamble, I take this opportunity to bring to your attention that Pakistan has an alarmingly high Maternal Mortality Rate (276 maternal deaths per 100,000 births) and it is estimated that every 30 minutes one Pakistani woman loses her life due to reproductive health complications! Most of these deaths are preventable.

By supporting this resolution Pakistan will reiterate its International and national commitments for the Women rights. Moreover, supporting the resolution will not only help Pakistan to achieve Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 5 (on Maternal Mortality) but will complement two other MDGs including Goal 3 (on Gender Equality) and Goal 4 (Child Health). It is therefore requested that Pakistan's permanent representative to the United Nations be advised to endorse 'Maternal Mortality Resolution' to ensure Pakistan's active commitment to this cause at the global level!

Please do contact us for any further details on the subject and we will appreciate Government of Pakistan's positive response towards the promotion of enabling environment for the Women Rights.

Warm regards,



Qudus Baig
Country Representative for Pakistan

Enclosed: Draft-Resolution



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May 25, 2009

Ms. Shahnaz Wazir Ali
Special Advisor to the Prime Minister
Government of Pakistan
Islamabad

Subject: UN Human Rights Council - Urging Governments to Support Resolution on Maternal Mortality and Human Rights on Priority Basis.

Dear Shahnaz

Greetings from World Population Foundation, Pakistan!

Our telephonic conversation was indeed encouraging and it was heartening to see political will on your part to take up the issue of maternal mortality at the highest governmental level to initiate positive change in the status of women.

A brief overview of the Resolution on Maternal Mortality and Human Rights provides that on March 16th 2009, 84 Governments in a joint statement delivered to the UN Human Rights Council reaffirmed their commitment to addressing '**maternal mortality as a human rights issue**' and called upon the UN Human Rights Council to take decisive action to contribute to the existing efforts to address maternal mortality. This joint statement included countries from all regions as signatories, and represents one of the largest joint intergovernmental statements delivered to the Council. Pakistan has not yet endorsed the resolution though it is a member of the Human Rights Council.

The 84 Governments called on the Council to take collective and concrete action on maternal mortality during its last session. The statement follows from the first debate that the Council held on this topic in June 2008:

- The statement includes a reaffirmation that maternal mortality is a human rights issue and that the magnitude of the problem calls for the renewal of political will to address it.
- The 84 Governments call on the Council to take collective and concrete action on maternal mortality during its session from June 2- 18, 2009 in Geneva.
- The idea is that this resolution would be the continuation of the process that started with the 2008 panel on maternal mortality and that would lay the ground for further work of the Council and its mechanisms on this issue.

The resolution establishes poverty as a contributing factor in many deaths and, accordingly, recognizes the need for partnerships on maternal health through development programmes, dialogues, international cooperation and technical assistance. At the same time, it also recognizes the need for all States to respect their human rights obligations.



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World Population Foundation (WPF) is a United Nations (UN) affiliated organization that works to encourage social and economic growth and rights throughout the world. WPF strongly believes that the ability to break out of the cycle of poverty starts with the freedom of choice. WPF supports poverty relief programs in developing countries enabling individuals to make their own decisions about their quality and the number of children they desire.

As a start, the Human Rights Council has been urged to contribute to existing efforts by:

1. Identifying the human rights dimensions of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity;
2. Reviewing and considering information on discrimination in the provision of and access to healthcare for women and discrimination against women in respect of their right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children.
3. Talking about the human rights implications of maternal mortality and morbidity in the universal periodic review and in treaty body dialogues, including the exchange of programmes and policies that have successfully reversed the trend of maternal deaths and injuries.
4. Requesting States to include women in decision-making about maternal health, including decisions on the design of local health care mechanisms, and to recognize women's right to skilled professional care before, during and after pregnancy and childbirth.

With this prologue, I take this opportunity to bring to your attention that Pakistan has an alarmingly high Maternal Mortality Rate (276 maternal deaths per 100, 000 births) and it is estimated that every 30 minutes one Pakistani woman loses her life due to reproductive health complications! Most of these deaths are preventable. The failure to prevent them is an impediment to the universal realization of human rights, and could constitute a violation of human rights, including women's right to health, life, education, dignity, access to information and appropriate healthcare.

Government of Pakistan can contribute to existing efforts by supporting the Resolution in the next meeting of Human Rights Council to be held in Geneva from June 2-18, 2009. Most importantly, it is requested that Pakistan's permanent representative to the United Nations be advised to endorse 'Maternal Mortality Resolution' to ensure Pakistan's active commitment to this cause at the global level!

Please do contact us for any further details on the subject and share with us any progress in the matter.

Warm regards,


Qadeer Baig
Country Representative for Pakistan

Updates to the Civil Society for the endorsement of Maternal Mortality Resolution

June 09, 2009

Subject: UN Human Rights Council - Urging Governments to Support Resolution on Maternal Mortality and Human Rights



Dear Colleague!

Greetings from World Population Foundation, Pakistan!

We are currently engaged in an advocacy effort, urging the Government of Pakistan to accept Maternal Mortality as a human rights by endorsing the Maternal Mortality Resolution at the UN Human Rights Council.

A brief overview of the Resolution on Maternal Mortality and Human Rights provides that on March 16 2009, 84 Governments in a joint statement delivered to the UN Human Rights Council reaffirmed their commitment to addressing **'maternal mortality as a human rights issue'** and called upon the UN Human Rights Council to take decisive action to contribute to the existing efforts to address maternal mortality. This joint statement included countries from all regions as signatories, and represents one of the largest joint intergovernmental statements delivered to the Council. Currently, the Resolution is being negotiated on the margins of the on-going session of the UN Human Rights Council. It will be tabled on 13 June, 2009 and adopted/voted upon on 18 June, 2009.

Pakistan has not yet endorsed the resolution though it is a member of the Human Rights Council and features an alarmingly high Maternal Mortality Rate (MDG monitor shows the maternal mortality figure of Pakistan at 320 maternal deaths per 100000 births).

As parts of its on-going efforts, World Population Foundation, Pakistan has spoken to Ms. Shehnaz Wazir Ali, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on Social Sector, who has shown willingness to raise the issue at the higher level.

Further, National Trust for Population Welfare (NATPOW) as a partner of our Safe Motherhood Campaign has discussed the issue with Dr. Firdous Aashiq Awan, Minister for Population Welfare. She has been forthcoming about the matter and has written a letter to both the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Rights to take the cause forward.

Owing to continuous advocacy efforts, Pakistan took the floor to speak at the UN Human Rights Council. While the Pakistani delegation to Geneva maintained maternal mortality was primarily a health and a development issue, however, they abstained from rejecting it as a human rights issue altogether. They reserved their positions on specific paragraphs and are waiting for instructions from Federal Government in Islamabad.

With very little time remaining, it is imperative that media organizations join hands to move ahead with concentrated efforts to ensure that Pakistan figures among the countries that endorse maternal mortality as a human rights issue once the resolution is put forward for adoption.

Qadeer Bano

Country Representative for WPF

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Date: 10 June, 2009

Subject: Maternal Mortality and Human Rights Resolution Up-date

Dear Colleague!

Greetings from World Population Foundation, Pakistan!

WPF, Pakistan is currently engaged in an advocacy effort, urging the Government of Pakistan to accept Maternal Mortality as a human rights by endorsing the Maternal Mortality Resolution at the UN Human Rights Council.

A brief overview of the Resolution on Maternal Mortality and Human Rights provides that on March 16 2009, 84 Governments in a joint statement delivered to the UN Human Rights Council reaffirmed their commitment to addressing 'maternal mortality as a human rights issue' and called upon the UN Human Rights Council to take decisive action to contribute to the existing efforts to address maternal mortality. Currently, the Resolution is being negotiated on the margins of the on-going session of the UN Human Rights Council. It will be tabled on 13 June, 2009 and adopted/voted upon on 18 June, 2009.

As part of its on-going efforts, WPF, Pakistan has contacted Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on Social Sector, Minister for Population Welfare, Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Human Rights as well as UNFPA to raise the issue at the higher level.

However, despite our on-going efforts, our sources from Geneva have communicated that Pakistan has shown itself to be a regressive participant seeking to eliminate most references to human rights within the draft resolution thus undermining its value considerably.

In the text of the most recent version of the resolution (copy attached), Pakistan proposes to eliminate references to human rights in PP4 and OP3 and to delete OP2. Quite worryingly they have also reserved their position on OP6 and OP7. Together these paragraphs represent the main thrust of the resolution - that Maternal Mortality is a human rights issue, that it should be treated as such and the Human Rights Council has a role to play in ensuring that the Human Rights dimension is there in international approaches to Maternal Mortality.

With very little time remaining before the Resolution is put forward for adoption, it is imperative that **media joins hands with the civil society organizations** to move ahead with concentrated efforts to ensure that Pakistan figures among the countries that endorse maternal mortality as a human rights issue on 18 June, 2009.

We therefore request you to raise this issue of national importance through editorials, articles, feature stories, news reports etc. and play the role of a catalyst in propelling the Government of honouring its responsibility. Because when it's about saving lives, every effort counts!

We look forward to your active role for this national cause!

Best regards,

Qadeer Baig
Country Representative for Pakistan



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Pakistan Resists Efforts to Establish Maternal Mortality as a Human Rights Issue



World Population Foundation (WPF), Pakistan as part of its efforts for the Safe Motherhood campaign has appealed to the Government to endorse the Maternal Mortality and Human Rights resolution at the ongoing session of the United Nations Human Rights Council. The resolution has so far been co-sponsored by 40 countries including Turkey and Sri Lanka and will be put forth for final adoption on June 18, 2009.

Pakistan's attitude towards this Resolution appears rather mind boggling, especially in view of its alarmingly high Maternal Mortality Rate (276 maternal deaths per 100,000 births). Moreover, supporting the resolution will not only help Pakistan to achieve Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 5 (on Maternal Mortality) but will complement two other MDGs including Goal 3 (on Gender Equality) and Goal 4 (Child Health).

However, despite on-going efforts, sources from Geneva have communicated that Pakistan has shown itself to be a regressive participant seeking to eliminate most references to human rights within the draft resolution. Previously, Pakistan had proposed to eliminate references to human rights and had also reserved its position on certain paragraphs that represented the main thrust of the resolution - that Maternal Mortality is a human rights issue and should be treated as such. Moreover, the Human Rights Council has a role to play in ensuring that the Human Rights dimension is there in international approaches to Maternal Mortality.

In a more recent disturbing development, Pakistan figures among the frontline nations (Egypt and Indonesia being the other two) that have threatened to make amendments, to the current draft of the Resolution - either written ones or oral - once it is presented to the plenary on Thursday. It is feared that these amendments will weaken the resolution and will not look good for a resolution that introduces a new topic into the Council's work.

With very little time remaining before the Resolution is put forward for adoption, WPF, Pakistan and Civil Society Organizations appeal to the Government to come forward and contribute to the existing efforts by endorsing the resolution on 18 June 2009.

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Civil Society Prevails: Pakistan Approves the Maternal Mortality and Human Rights Resolution



The United Nations Human Rights Council at Geneva during its eleventh regular session adopted a landmark resolution on 'Preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and human rights' without using the voting option spelling out a colossal achievement. In this resolution, governments express grave concern over the unacceptably high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity, acknowledge that this is a human rights issue and commit to enhance their efforts at the national and international level to protect the lives of women and girls worldwide. Over 70 UN member states co-sponsored this resolution, led by Colombia and New Zealand.

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For the last one month, World Population Foundation (WPF), Pakistan as parts of its Safe Motherhood Campaign had been engaged in an advocacy effort to have Pakistan endorse the resolution. While the initial response was lukewarm with sources in Geneva quoting Pakistan as a regressive participant in the discussions, it is heartening to know that the efforts made by civil society have finally prevailed. Not only did Pakistan eventually supported the resolution but also played an instrumental role in building consensus as the coordinator for member countries of Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC).

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Following suite, other developing countries such as Egypt and Chile took the floor to highlight the significance of the resolution and recognise maternal health as a fundamental human right.

While the endorsement of the resolution is a milestone achievement, it also means that the collective responsibilities of the Government and civil society have increased manifold. They must now deliver to ensure that the spirit of the resolution is translated into concrete action. World Population Foundation, Pakistan expressed its commitment to continue its efforts for the cause of Safe Motherhood and realize the dream of a Pakistan where every pregnancy would soon be planned and safe.

World Population Foundation (WPF) is a charity organization, founded in 1985, that aims to encourage sexual and reproductive health and rights throughout the world. WPF strongly believes that the ability to break out of the cycle of poverty starts with the freedom of choice. WPF supports projects by local organizations in providing voluntary counseling and information to make their own decisions about their sexuality and the number of children they desire.

Letter of Appreciation from the Civil Society

Nabila Malick
Rahnuma FPAP
Pakistan

2 July 2009

Dear Nabila ,

I write to offer both my warmest congratulations and sincere thanks for the important work carried out by the Rahnuma FPAP around the recent Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Resolution at the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

As you will be aware, the work of the Member Association, along with that of other NGOs, was instrumental in the accession of this resolution. The advocacy of Ministries, Parliamentarians and sections of the media combined to exert the necessary pressure on the delegates of Pakistan at the Human Rights Council for them to reverse their initial objections, and allow this important resolution to proceed.

This is not only a powerful example of how national level advocacy can have such a positive impact at the global level, but also demonstrates the considerable advocacy capacity of Rahnuma FPAP. I would be delighted if you could pass on my warmest thanks and congratulations to all involved.

With best wishes and warm regards.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gill Greer". Below the signature is a horizontal line.

Dr Gill Greer,
Director-General, IPPF

Media Campaign on Maternal Mortality Resolution

DAWN Tuesday, June 2, 2009.

DAWN Islamabad, TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2009

Govt hedging on maternal mortality as 1

By Nosheen Abbas

"SHE'S dead, she's gone forever and so is my sibling, a younger brother or sister, someone I'll never know now ... because they are gone ... my mother is gone forever." This is the experience the children of over 500,000 Pakistani mothers undergo every year. The maternal mortality rate in Pakistan has reached a frightening high rate.

Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) is the number of maternal deaths per 1,000 live births. In Pakistan MMR are 276 maternal deaths per 100,000 births. These are just numbers to us, but what women and their families experience through the sorry deaths of thousands of women due to negli-

gence, that all stakeholders are responsible for, cannot possibly be expressed through digits.

On 16th March, this year, 85 governments in a joint statement, delivered to the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), reaffirmed commitment to addressing maternal mortality as a human rights issue and that the magnitude of the problem calls for the renewal of political will to address it. However, Pakistan was not one of the signatories to this document, because the government refuses to recognize the death of Pakistani mothers, as a result of medical negligence and lack of awareness, a basic human rights issue.

This alarming attitude of the gov-

ernment has moved the civil society into action. Civil society organisations held a discussion at the World Population Foundation-Pakistan Office in Islamabad on the upcoming resolution on maternal mortality in the coming UN Human Rights Council session scheduled for June 2-18, 2009 in Geneva.

The 85 governments are calling on the UNHRC to take collective and concrete action on maternal mortality during its session in June and participants from various national and international NGOs have urged the Pakistan Government to sign the upcoming resolution on maternal mortality. As the date for the UN session

is nearing many are worried and concerned about the apathy of the government, including Yvonne Boggarts Head of Advocacy Department (WPF) who wrote in an email to Dr Qadeer Baig, Country Representative, WPF that Pakistan is on the list of countries needing special attention to get them onboard for this resolution at the Council on recognizing maternal mortality as a basic human right issue.

The importance of supporting this resolution would lead to the continuation of a process that would lay the ground for further work of the Council and its mechanisms on this issue, and would be the first of its kind at the

Every 30 minutes, a mother dies in Pakistan

Pakistan fails to recognise maternal mortality as HR issue

Myra Imran

Islamabad

Despite having an alarmingly high maternal mortality rate, Pakistan has not yet endorsed the resolution presented at the UN Human Rights Council three months ago in which 84 countries reaffirmed their commitment to address it as a human rights issue.

It is estimated that every 30 minutes, one Pakistani woman loses her life due to reproductive health complications that leads to 276 maternal deaths per 100,000 births. Most of these deaths are preventable.

Civil society activists believe that the failure to prevent these deaths is an impediment to the universal realisation of human rights, and is a violation of women's rights to health, education, dignity, access to information and appropriate healthcare.

On March 16 this year, around 84 governments in a joint statement delivered to the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) reaffirmed their commitment to address the issue of maternal mortality as hu-

man rights issue and called upon the Council to take decisive action in this regard. This joint statement included countries from all regions as signatories and represents one of the largest joint inter-governmental statements delivered to the Council, and though an HRC member, Pakistan has not yet endorsed the resolution.

In the joint statement, the signatories called on the Council to take collective and concrete action on maternal mortality. The statement that follows from the first debate that HRC held on this topic in June 2008 says that the magnitude of the problem calls for the renewal of political will to address it. The resolution establishes poverty as a contributing factor in many deaths and, accordingly, recognises the need for partnerships on maternal health through development programmes, dialogues, international cooperation and technical assistance. At the same time, it also recognises the need for all states to respect their human rights obligations.

To start with, the Council has been urged to contribute to exist-

ing efforts by identifying the human rights dimensions of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity, and reviewing information on discrimination in the provision of and access to healthcare for women and their right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children.

The statement also requests HRC to include women in decision-making about maternal health, including decisions on the design of local healthcare mechanisms, and recognise women's right to skilled professional care before, during and after pregnancy and childbirth. It also calls for mentioning the human rights implications of maternal mortality and morbidity in the universal periodic review and in treaty body dialogues, including the exchange of programmes and policies that have successfully reversed the trend of maternal deaths and injuries.

Talking to 'The News', officials of Ministry of Population Welfare said the ministry is already lobbying with the Ministries of Foreign

Affairs and Human Rights to endorse the resolution in the ongoing session of HRC that started on June 2 (Tuesday) and would continue till June 18.

Chief Executive Officer National Trust of Population Welfare (NATPOW) Iftikhar Durrani said that Minister for Population Welfare Firdous Ashiq Awan has taken up the issue with both the ministries, urging them to play their role in endorsing the statement. "She has found no reason for not endorsing the resolution on the issue, as there is a need to deal with maternal mortality on emergency grounds in Pakistan," he said adding that endorsing the resolution would also reflect Pakistan's active commitment to this cause at global level.

Iftikhar said maternal mortality is already high on the government's agenda but endorsing the resolution would lead to the commitment of more resources towards this cause and would motivate international donors to contribute towards controlling this menace.

Maternal Mortality Resolution

EIGHTY-FOUR governments in a joint statement delivered to the UN Human Rights Council on March 16 reaffirmed their commitment to addressing 'maternal mortality as a human rights issue' and called upon the UN Human Rights Council to take decisive action to contribute to the existing efforts to address maternal mortality.

This joint statement included countries from all regions as signatories and represents one of the largest joint intergovernmental statements delivered to the Council.

The 84 governments called on the Council to take collective and concrete action on maternal mortality during its last session. The statement follows from the first debate that the

Council held on this topic in June 2008:

—The statement includes a reaffirmation that maternal mortality is a human rights issue and that the magnitude of the problem calls for the renewal of political will to address it.

—The 84 governments call on the Council to take collective and concrete action on maternal mortality during its session from June 2-18, 2009 in Geneva.

—The idea is that this resolution would be the continuation of the process that started with the 2008 panel on maternal mortality and that would lay the ground for further work of the Council and its mechanisms on this issue.

The resolution establishes

poverty as a contributing factor in many deaths and, accordingly, recognises the need for partnerships on maternal health through development programmes, dialogues, international cooperation and technical assistance. At the same time it also recognises the need for all states to respect their human rights obligations.

It is then a sad reality that the Government of Pakistan has not yet endorsed the resolution though it is a member of the Human Rights Council. Moreover, the issue of maternal mortality is most relevant to Pakistan.

Pakistan has an alarmingly high maternal mortality rate and it is estimated that every 30 minutes one Pakistani woman

loses her life due to reproductive health complications! Further, supporting the resolution will not only help Pakistan to achieve MDG 5 (on maternal mortality) but will complement two other MDGs, including Goal 3 (on gender equality) and Goal 4 (child health).

The MDG monitor shows the maternal mortality figure of Pakistan at 320 maternal deaths per 100,000 births, reflecting that with only six years to meet our global pledge, a lot of work needs to be done.

Most of these deaths are preventable. The failure to prevent them is an impediment to the universal realisation of human rights, and could constitute a violation of human rights, including women's right to health, life,

education, dignity, access to information and appropriate healthcare.

It is then only logical that the government of Pakistan contribute to existing efforts by supporting the resolution at the next meeting of Human Rights Council to be held in Geneva, the session of which commenced on June 2 and will go on till June 18 2009.

Most importantly, Pakistan's permanent representative to the United Nations should be advised to endorse 'Maternal Mortality Resolution' to ensure Pakistan's active commitment to this cause at the global level!

It is important that every citizen plays his or her part in supporting this cause – by writing in its favour, advocating it

through their organisation or merely spreading the word. Because when it's about saving lives, every effort counts!

AREEBAH SHAHID
Assistant Programme Officer,
Communication,
World Population Foundation
Islamabad

Readers are requested to restrict their comments to a maximum of 400 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for reasons of clarity and space. Letters, including those by e-mail, should carry the complete postal address of the sender. The views expressed in these columns do not necessarily reflect the views of the newspaper.—Editor

The News International, June 17, 2009. And The Post June 18 2009



WPF asks Pakistan to support draft on maternal mortality

Our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: World Population Foundation, Pakistan chapter has lamented that Pakistan has shown itself to be a regressive participant seeking to eliminate most references to human rights within the draft resolution on 'Preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and human rights'.

WPF said that this approach will undermine the value of the draft resolution, which was tabled last Friday at Human Rights Council by approximately 40 co-sponsors. The resolution will hopefully be adopted tomorrow (Thursday).

Quoting sources, WPF observed in a statement that Pakistan delegations had been engaged in the negotiations with the countries whose perspectives included being resistant to recognising it as an issue thereby trying their best to get all the support they can particularly from African and Asian States and the OIC to seek amendments that would weaken the resolution.

The resolution recognises that maternal mortality is a human rights issue and HRs have place in solving maternal mortality and morbidity. Treating it as a health and development issue, the resolution also recognises importance of international cooperation and assistance. The resolution also welcomes the efforts of UN treaty monitoring-bodies and special procedures in this area. It requests the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a study on preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and human rights that would identify the elements of maternal mortality.



UN to take up maternal mortality

PRESS RELEASE

LAHORE: The Maternal Mortality and Morbidity and Human Rights Resolution will be tabled in Geneva, UNO on Thursday (today) while Pakistan has reportedly threatened to make amendments to the resolution.

The Rahnuma Family Planning Association of Pakistan (FPAP) along with other prominent NGOs working in the area has strongly advocated the government to support the resolution as it is. Director Rahnuma FPAP in an interview with The Post said that the bill will prove ineffective in dealing with the issue. Pakistan should have been most sensitive towards the issue because every 20 minutes a woman dies in child birth related complications in this country, which is one of the highest rate in the world.

The failure to support the resolution as it is reflects a lack of commitment to women's human rights and the lack of political will to finding new solutions to an issue which is complex and should be tackled from many perspectives. The failure to support the text as tabled also reflects that we do not believe that women and adolescent girls have a right to survive pregnancy and child-birth.

The resolution is important because it recognizes that maternal mortality and morbidity engages a series of human rights of women and girls, not just the right to health.

It seeks to ensure that subject is not just seen from a health and development angle but also from a human rights perspective.

DAWN, June 18, 2009 and Daily Ausaf June 18, 2009

FOUNDED BY QUAID-I-AZAM MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAH

DAWN

Vol. LXIII No. 167 Lahore, Jumadi-us-Sani 24, 1430 Thursday, June 18, 2009 24 P

Maternal mortality Pakistan objects to UN resolution

By Our Reporter

LAHORE, June 17: Pakistan is not endorsing a UN resolution that recognises maternal mortality a human rights issue despite a high rate of birth related deaths among mothers in the country, Rahnuma Family Planning Association of Pakistan Director Nabila Zar Malik said on Wednesday.

This year, 84 countries presented a 'Prevention of Maternal Mortality and Morbidity and Human Rights' resolution to the UN Human Rights Council recognising maternal mortality against human rights, however Pakistan has yet to reaffirm its stance, she said.

"Pakistan should have been the most sensitive towards the issue because the maternal mortality rate (MMR) in this country is one of the highest in the world," she said.

"Figures suggest every 20 minutes a woman dies in child birth related complications. Our (Pakistani) delegates are threatening to make amendments once the resolution is presented to the plenary on Thursday (today) in Geneva.

These amendments will in essence seek to de-link women's rights from maternal mortality and morbidity issue," Ms Malik said, adding that international experts apprehended that such amendments could weaken the resolution eventually making it difficult to achieve the desired objective.

She said endorsing the resolution would mean that Pakistan recognised maternal mortality a human rights issue.

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روزنامہ اوصاف

LAHORE

ایڈیٹر: محسن بلال خان

چیف ایڈیٹر: مرتاب خان

جلد : 12

شمارہ : 113

جمرات 18 جون 2009ء 24 مئی 1430ھ 2066ء ب، صفحات 12 قیمت 9 روپے

"پاکستان میں ہر 20 منٹ بعد عورت بیچ کی پیداوار کے دوران ہلاک ہو جاتی ہے"

لاہور (خبرنگار خصوصی) پاکستان میں ہر 20 منٹ بعد ایک خاتون بیچ کی پیداوار کے دوران ہلاک ہو جاتی ہے اس مسئلے کو حل کرنے کے لیے کوئی نیا قانون کی بنیاد پر اس کی ترقی سے آج قوم ختم ہو چکی ہے انہی مطلق اور درہن پیداوار میں بیچ کی اموات ہر بچہ کے حوالے سے قہر و چہر کی جانتے کی زمین میں پاکستانی وفد تھوڑی سی سلاش کر رہا ہے تاکہ اس کے بارے میں سچے سچے حقائق سامنے آسکیں اور ان کی جان بچاؤ کی کوشش کی جاسکے۔

انہی مطلق اور درہن پیداوار میں بیچ کی اموات ہر بچہ کے حوالے سے قہر و چہر کی جانتے کی سلاش کر رہا ہے تاکہ اس کے بارے میں سچے سچے حقائق سامنے آسکیں اور ان کی جان بچاؤ کی کوشش کی جاسکے۔

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The Daily Pakistan Lahore June 18, 2009 and Daily Jinnah Lahore June 18, 2009



پاکستان میں زچہ و بچہ کی شرح اموات بہت زیادہ ہے، نیملہ ملک
ہر 20 منٹ بعد ایک خاتون بچہ کی پیدائش کے دوران ہلاک ہو جاتی ہے، خصوصاً مل ہونا چاہئے
حکومت اقوام متحدہ کی قرارداد تسلیم کر کے واضح پالیسی اپنانے کو شرح اموات میں کمی ہو سکتی ہے

لاہور (پ ر) جمعی نائیک ایسوسی ایشن آف پاکستان میں پیدائش ماں اور بچہ کی اموات سمیت ہزاروں پاکستانی ڈاکٹریٹرز نے کہا ہے کہ اقوام متحدہ کے حوالے سے قرارداد پیش کی جائے گی۔ ایک بیان کے تحت انہوں نے حویہ کیا کہ

اقوام متحدہ کی قراردادیں پیدائش کے وقت اموات کی شرح کو کم کرنے کے لیے اقوام متحدہ کی قراردادیں تسلیم کر کے واضح پالیسی اپنانے کو شرح اموات میں کمی ہو سکتی ہے۔ پاکستان میں ہر 20 منٹ بعد ایک خاتون بچہ کی پیدائش کے دوران ہلاک ہو جاتی ہے اس حوالے سے واضح پالیسی اپنانے سے اموات میں کمی ہو سکتی ہے۔



اقوام متحدہ آج جنیوا میں ماں و بچہ کی اموات بارے قرارداد پیش کریگا
انسانی حقوق اور دوران پیدائش اموات کے بارے قرارداد میں پاکستانی وفد جنیوا کی سفارتش کریگا

پاکستان میں دوران پیدائش بچہ کی اموات کی شرح میں اضافہ ہوا جس پر اقوام متحدہ نے نیملہ ملک اور دیگر ممالک کو اقوام متحدہ آج جنیوا میں انسانی حقوق اور دوران پیدائش اموات کے بارے قرارداد پیش کرنے کا مطالبہ کیا ہے۔ پاکستانی وفد اس میں توجہ کی سفارتش کریگا۔

اقوام متحدہ کی قراردادیں پیدائش کے وقت اموات کی شرح کو کم کرنے کے لیے اقوام متحدہ کی قراردادیں تسلیم کر کے واضح پالیسی اپنانے کو شرح اموات میں کمی ہو سکتی ہے۔ پاکستان میں ہر 20 منٹ بعد ایک خاتون بچہ کی پیدائش کے دوران ہلاک ہو جاتی ہے اس حوالے سے واضح پالیسی اپنانے سے اموات میں کمی ہو سکتی ہے۔

Pakistan sanctions maternal mortality as human rights issue

Our correspondent
Islamabad

Owing to the concerted advocacy efforts of civil society organisations and persuasion of the Ministry of Population Welfare, Pakistan has finally endorsed the Maternal Mortality & Human Rights Resolution in the UN Human Rights Council (HRC).

According to a press statement issued by World Population Foundation (WPF), the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, during its 11th regular session, adopted a landmark resolution on 'Preventable Maternal Mortality & Morbidity and Human Rights' without using the voting option.

In this resolution, governments expressed grave concern over the unacceptably high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity, acknowledged that this is a human rights issue and committed to enhance their efforts at national and international level to protect the lives of women and girls worldwide. Over 70 UN member states co-sponsored this resolution, led by Colombia and New Zealand.

It is estimated that every 30 minutes, one Pakistani woman loses her life due to reproductive health complications that leads to 276 maternal deaths per 100,000 births. Most of these deaths are preventable.

On March 16, around 84 governments in a joint statement, delivered to the UN Human Rights Council, reaffirmed their commitment to addressing the issue of maternal mortality as a human rights issue and called upon the Council

to take decisive action in this regard.

The statement that follows the first debate that the Council held on this topic in June 2008 says that the magnitude of the problem calls for the renewal of political will to address it. The resolution establishes poverty as a contributing factor in many deaths and, accordingly, recognises the need for partnerships on maternal health through development programmes, dialogues, international cooperation and technical assistance. At the same time, it also recognises the need for all states to respect their human rights obligations.

To start up with, the Human Rights Council has been urged to contribute to existing efforts by identifying the human rights dimensions of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity, and reviewing information on discrimination in the provision of access to healthcare for women and their right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children. The statement also requests HRC to include women in decision-making about maternal health, including decisions on the design of local healthcare mechanisms, and to recognise women's right to skilled professional care before, during and after pregnancy and childbirth.

For the last one month, civil society organisations, especially the World Population Foundation (WPF) as part of its Safe Motherhood Campaign, had been engaged in an advocacy effort to have Pakistan endorse the resolution.

The Nation , June 17, 2009



Published: June 17, 2009

ISLAMABAD - As part of its Safe Motherhood Campaign, the World Population Foundation (WPF) Pakistan has appealed to the government to endorse the Maternal Mortality and Human Rights resolution during the ongoing session of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

“The resolution has so far been co-sponsored by 40 countries, including Turkey and Sri Lanka and will be put forth for final adoption on June 18, 2009,” said a press release issued by World Population Foundation, Pakistan.

“Pakistan’s stance towards this resolution appears rather mind boggling, especially in view of its alarmingly high Maternal Mortality Rate (276 maternal deaths per 100,000 births,” the press release added.

Moreover, supporting the resolution will not only help Pakistan to achieve the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 5 (on Maternal Mortality) but will complement two other MDGs, including Goal 3 (on Gender Equality) and Goal 4 (Child Health).

However, despite ongoing efforts, Pakistan has shown itself to be a regressive participant seeking to eliminate most references to human rights within the draft resolution.

Previously, Pakistan had proposed to eliminate references to human rights and had also reserved its position on certain paragraphs that represented the main thrust of the resolution - that Maternal Mortality is a human rights issue and should be treated as such.

Moreover, the Human Rights Council has a role to play in ensuring that the Human Rights dimension is there in international approaches to maternal mortality. In a more recent disturbing development, Pakistan figures among the frontline nations (Egypt and Indonesia being the other two) that have threatened to make amendments, to the current draft of the Resolution - either written ones or oral - once it is presented to the plenary on Thursday

With very little time remaining before the resolution is put forward for adoption, WPF and civil society Organisations appeal to the government to come forward and contribute to the existing efforts by endorsing the resolution on 18 June 2009.

This is the link: <http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Regional/Islamabad/17-Jun-2009/Need-to-endorse-maternal-mortality-resolution-urged>

The News International, June 19, 2009

■ HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Civil society hails adoption of resolution on maternal mortality

Rasheed Khalid
Islamabad

Civil society has welcomed the adoption of the resolution on 'Preventable Maternal Mortality & Morbidity and Human Rights' without a vote by the Human Rights Council in its eleventh regular session in Geneva on Wednesday.

It is being dubbed as a big achievement of civil society of Pakistan, as the initial Foreign Office attitude was different. For it, the resolution was reportedly considered as a development and not human rights issue.

Pakistan is also the coordinator of the OIC group in this regard. Some of the Islamic countries including Pakistan were earlier averse to the resolution, but than civil society moved into action and persuaded Shahnaz Wazir Ali, adviser to the prime minister and a senior human rights activist, and Federal Minister for Population Welfare Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan, who wrote letters to the concerned quarters in this regard.

Talking to an HRCP representative, the director-general human rights in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here earlier is said to have agreed on developing a consensus and adopting the resolution without a vote.

Going for a vote would have been an embarrassing situation for the progressive government of Pakistan People's Party, which always stood for human rights and democracy in the past. It would also have tarnished the image of OIC members about their human rights concerns.

The governments in the resolution expressing grave concern over the unacceptably high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity, acknowledged that this is a human rights issue and committed to enhance their efforts at the national and international levels to protect the lives of women and girls worldwide.

Over 70 UN members led by Colombia and New Zealand co-sponsored this resolution. Chile and Egypt took the floor after the resolution was presented to UN Human Rights Council and highlighted the significance of the resolution and recognised the maternal health, as a fundamental human right.

Finally Pakistan played an important role to build a consensus, as an OIC coordinator in the last minute and a civil society representative talking to 'The News' acknowledged the efforts of Pakistani delegation.

She also thanked Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan for pushing the agenda ahead.



General Assembly

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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
Eleventh session
Agenda item 3

**PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS, CIVIL,
POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS,
INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT**

Australia*, Austria*, Belgium*, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil,
Bulgaria*, Canada, Chile, Colombia*, Congo*, Croatia*, Cyprus*,
Czech Republic*, Denmark*, Dominican Republic*, Ecuador*, Estonia*,
Finland*, France, Germany, Greece*, Guatemala*, Honduras*, Ireland*,
Israel*, Italy, Liechtenstein*, Lithuania*, Luxembourg*, Maldives*, Mali*,
Malta*, Mexico, Monaco*, Nepal*, Netherlands, New Zealand*, Nicaragua,
Norway*, Panama*, Peru*, Poland*, Portugal*, Romania*, Rwanda*,
Slovenia, Spain*, Sri Lanka*, Sweden*, Switzerland, Thailand*, Turkey*,
Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,
United States of America*, Uruguay: revised draft resolution

11/... Preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and human rights

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and their Review Conferences and the targets and commitments regarding the reduction of maternal mortality and universal access to reproductive health, including those contained in the 2000 Millennium Declaration (General Assembly resolution 55/2) and the 2005 World Summit Outcome (General Assembly resolution 60/1),

* Non-member State of the Human Rights Council.

Reaffirming also the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the Goals on improving maternal health, promoting gender equality and empowering women, reducing child and infant mortality and the development of a global partnership,¹

Recalling the obligations of States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families,

Convinced that increased political will and commitment, cooperation and technical assistance at the international and national levels are urgently required to reduce the unacceptably high global rate of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity,

Recognizing the leading role of the World Health Organization in maternal health and the work under the annual World Health Assembly agenda item on the monitoring of the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing also that the unacceptably high global rate of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity is a health, development and human rights challenge, and that a human rights analysis of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and the integration of a human rights perspective in international and national responses to maternal mortality and morbidity could contribute positively to the common goal of reducing this rate, with a view to eliminating preventable maternal mortality and morbidity,

Welcoming the ongoing efforts of the United Nations human rights treaty bodies to highlight the human rights aspects of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity, including those of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and of the special procedures, in particular those described in the report of the

¹ Millennium Development Goals 5, 3, 4 and 8 respectively.

Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health (A/61/338),

Recognizing that the Council has a constructive role to play in raising awareness of the human rights aspects of the unacceptably high global rate of maternal mortality and morbidity and in supporting, promoting and enhancing existing national and international efforts to reduce this rate,

Welcoming its initiative to hold an interactive dialogue at its eighth regular session on maternal mortality and the human rights of women, on 5 June 2008,

Recognizing that preventable maternal mortality and morbidity affects women and their families in all regions and cultures, and that it is exacerbated by factors such as poverty, gender inequality, age and multiple forms of discrimination, as well as factors such as lack of access to adequate health facilities and technology, and lack of infrastructure,

1. *Expresses grave concern* at the unacceptably high global rate of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity, noting in this regard that the World Health Organization has assessed that over 1,500 women and girls die every day as a result of preventable complications occurring before, during and after pregnancy and childbirth, and that, globally, maternal mortality is the leading cause of death among women and of girls of reproductive age;

2. *Recognizes* that most instances of maternal mortality and morbidity are preventable, and that preventable maternal mortality and morbidity is a health, development and human rights challenge that also requires the effective promotion and protection of the human rights of women and girls, in particular their rights to life, to be equal in dignity, to education, to be free to seek, receive and impart information, to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress, to freedom from discrimination, and to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health;

3. *Requests* all States to renew their political commitment to eliminating preventable maternal mortality and morbidity at the local, national, regional and international levels, and to redouble their efforts to ensure the full and effective implementation of their human rights obligations, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the International Conference for

Population Development Programme of Action and their review conferences, and the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the Goals on improving maternal health and promoting gender equality and empowering women,² including through the allocation of necessary domestic resources to health systems;

4. *Also requests* States to give renewed emphasis to maternal mortality and morbidity initiatives in their development partnerships and cooperation arrangements, including through honouring existing commitments and considering new commitments, and the exchange of effective practices and technical assistance to strengthen national capacities, as well as to integrate a human rights perspective into such initiatives, addressing the impact that discrimination against women has on maternal mortality and morbidity;

5. *Encourages* States and other relevant stakeholders, including national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations, to give increased attention and resources to preventable maternal mortality and morbidity in their engagement with the United Nations human rights system, including with the human rights treaty bodies, the universal periodic review and special procedures;

6. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a thematic study on preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and human rights, in consultation with States, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Bank, and all other relevant stakeholders, and requests that the study include identification of the human rights dimensions of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity in the existing international legal framework; an overview of initiatives and activities within the United Nations system to address all causes of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity; identification of how the Council can add value to existing initiatives through a human rights analysis, including efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goal on improving maternal health³, and recommended options for better

² Millennium Development Goals 5 and 3.

³ Millennium Development Goal 5.