

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF YEMEN**

TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**RESERVATIONS AND STATEMENTS OF INTERPRETATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
YEMEN**

The Mission of the Republic of Yemen to the UN wishes to express its position and interpretation and to lodge the following formal reservations regarding the following aspects of the Report of the Open Working Group:

1. With respect to Preamble P.17 “data and statistics disaggregated by ... gender,” the Republic of Yemen understands this to refer to sex-disaggregated data, reflecting the two biological sexes, male and female.
2. With respect to Target 3.7, the Republic of Yemen does not join consensus, and:
 - a. As for “Sexual and reproductive health care services,” and “reproductive health,” the Republic of Yemen reiterates the reservations it set forth in the Report of the ICPD and states that, under no circumstances are these terms to be understood to include recourse to abortion. In particular, the ICPD rejects recourse to abortion for family planning, denies it creates any new rights in this regard, and recognizes that this matter may only be determined through national legislation. Abortion is always gravely illicit and can never be called “safe” for the child who is killed or the mother who is brutalized.
 - b. As for “information and education,” the Republic of Yemen denies that such a reference be defined to include “Comprehensive Sexuality Education,” and reaffirms that the “prior right” of parents to choose the kind of education given to their children, a right recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, must be respected. The Republic of Yemen also recognizes such educational programmes as subject to the binding legal obligation of states parties to the ICCPR and ICESCR to “*undertake to have respect for the liberty of parents ... to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions.*”
3. With respect to Target 5.4, the Republic of Yemen understands “within the household” only as defined in reference to “the family.” The family, founded on the marriage of one man and one woman, is the natural and fundamental group unit which comprises the household and is the basic building block of society.
4. With respect to Target 5.6, the Republic of Yemen does not join consensus and reaffirms all reservations asserted more fully within its reservations to the Report of the ICPD, and 2(a) above. With respect to “reproductive rights,” the Republic of Yemen expresses grave objection to the attempted inclusion of abortion aspects under a framework advancing women’s rights, and reaffirms in this regard that no right to abortion exists under international law. The *jus cogens* norm of the right to life is chief among international human rights, as a non-derogable human right applicable without distinction of birth. The right of children to their lives is recognized as a *jus cogens* norm under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which guarantees that “*every child has the inherent right to life.*”

physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth.”

The Republic of Yemen also interprets this target’s language as strictly limited by the specific sovereign commitments and reservations undertaken by States to respective documents.

5. By “gender” the Republic of Yemen understands to mean “male or female” only, and to have no meaning other than the customary and general usage of the term.

The Republic of Yemen requests that the text of this statement and the reservations formally indicated be included in the Report of the Open Working Group and the official records of the meeting.

