

Dear Chair, Excellencies,

The Netherlands is concerned about the perpetuation of inequalities. The COVID-19 pandemic and the climate crisis jeopardize our promise to women, girls and young people all over the world that we will leave no one behind, and to achieve the goals of the ICPD and the SDGs.

While committing to improve food security and nutrition at this CPD, we must acknowledge that gender inequality and women's and girls' unequal access to health, education and resources, are at the root of these challenges.

Because what do we see: Women can no longer access the contraceptives they need. 12 million women around the world lost access to family planning services, leading to 1.4 million additional unintended pregnancies including many among adolescents. 10 million additional girls are at risk of child marriage. When an, often undernourished young girl gets pregnant, her and her child's life chances are slim.

This is how too many women and girls get trapped in an inte