

## **Statement**

Thank you Mr./Madam Chair

I am pleased to deliver this statement on behalf of Iceland.

This section effectively touches on the main financing challenges facing the sustainable development landscape, including socio-economic challenges, climate change, biodiversity and food security.

In particular, we welcome the reference to the imperative of urgently and systematically addressing funding shortfalls in education and health, as well as the excellent paragraph 19 on gender equality and women's empowerment. In addition, we suggest to add a reference to sexual and reproductive health and rights in this context, as sufficient financing for SRHR is crucial to advance sustainable development and enhance demographic resilience.

According to the UNFPA, investing in SRHR is one of the most impactful ways to unlock women's potential and address the women's health gap, in which they currently spend 25 per cent more of their lives in poor health compared to men. Investing in SRHR not only empowers women but also fuels economic growth, with every one USD invested in family planning returning more than eight USD in benefits for families and societies.

Moreover, we would like to emphasize para 25 on the importance of fostering transparent, accountable and inclusive governance systems, as well as the strengthening of anti-corruption institutions. Good governance is vital to advance and sustain financing for development measures and capacity-building support to that end remains integral.

Thank you.