

To: UN Commission on Population and Development

Re.: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in the Context of
Changing Population Age Structures and Sustainable Development

Presenter: Jillian Abballe, World Council of Churches

1. The Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches works for all to have life in abundance protected by the universal human rights. Upholding and defending women's rights is essential for ensuring life of dignity for all, women and men alike. We recognise that the Christian Tradition has resources to affirm the need to protect sexual and reproductive health of women. We also acknowledge that

there are social, religious, and cultural controversies about these issues and that

subsequent inaction in addressing them has a detrimental impact on social equity and sustainable development. Yet we affirm that it is our basic responsibility as churches and faith-based organisations (FBOs) to promote each person's inherent dignity as part of the divine creation.