HIGH-LEVEL SIDE EVENT WITH MEMBER STATES ON THE JOINT GLOBAL PROGRAMME ON ESSENTIAL SERVICES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS SUBJECT TO VIOLENCE

CO-HOSTED BY UNFPA AND UN WOMEN

Wednesday, 14th March 2018

Venue: Madison Ball room, The Westin Hotel 212 East 42nd Street, New York City

Time: 6 p.m. – 7.30 p.m.

Background: Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is one of the most pervasive human rights violations in the world and is a major impediment to achieving gender equality. Global data has shown that one in three women has experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in her lifetime which, rises to 70 percent in some countries. The magnitude of VAWG has significant short and long-term consequences on well-being, health and safety of women’s and girl’s lives, and reduces educational achievement and economic productivity. It has impacts on children, other family members, and whole communities. If unaddressed, these human rights violations have serious cost implications and consequences for societies, including on poverty reduction and development and efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The adoption of SDG 5, Target 5.2, as well as other ending VAWG-related SDG targets, reaffirms the centrality to address this issue.

To eliminate the many different forms of violence requires a multi-disciplinary approach with effective coordination among the different actors. This type of approach must include comprehensive multi-sectoral and mutually reinforcing prevention strategies that address the root causes of violence. At the same time, developing and improving access to essential comprehensive and quality health-care, justice and policing and psycho-social services can mitigate the above-mentioned consequences for women and girls as well as their families and communities, and help break recurrent cycles of violence. At the global level, there has been extensive commitment by the international community to eliminate and prevent VAW, founded on a human rights-based framework, including the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979), the Declaration on the Elimination of all forms of Violence Against Women (1993), the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and its Programme for Action (1994) and the Beijing Platform for Action (1995), which includes the elimination of violence as one of its 12 critical areas of concern. Most recently, the agreed conclusions of the 2013 Commission for the Status of Women (CSW) on the elimination and

1 ‘Women’, for the purposes of this programmed, includes adolescent girls.
prevention of all forms of VAWG provides a clear roadmap for implementation. At the national level, however, many countries are yet to develop national action plans or strategies to end VAWG that are explicitly focused on achieving improved and expanded access to comprehensive multi-sectoral quality services for all women and girls who have experienced violence. In addition, while there are some normative standards at the international level, there is no global-level framework and guidance specifying how to achieve greater access to essential services for all women and girls, nor an internationally-defined package of quality standards and/or guidelines for the provision of such services.

The Joint Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls subject to Violence (‘the Joint Programme’), co-managed by UNFPA and UN Women, in partnership with other UN agencies, including UNODC, WHO and UNDP, is aimed at responding to these critical gaps and challenges. More specifically, it aims to provide guidance on how to develop and implement the global norms on multi-sectoral services and responses, with a focus on the health, police, justice and social services and the coordination mechanisms involved therein. This initiative, which began in 2013, is a direct response to recommendations from the 2013 CSW Agreed Conclusions.

**Purpose:** On the occasion of the 62nd Session of the CSW, UNFPA and UN Women are pleased to host a high-level panel discussion on Wednesday, 14th March 2018, with the aim of raising awareness of the Joint Programme and its implementation to date in various countries, as well as to position violence against women and girls at the center of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. More specifically, the event will focus on:

- A brief overview of the initiative and progress to date;
- The linkages with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and,
- Reflections from buku haram girls survivors.

**Format:** The 1.3 hour session will consist of brief presentations by invited panelists, followed by a question and answer session.

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