# Position Paper

# Committee: United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW)

Portfolio: Kingdom of Denmark

Agenda: Deliberation upon Reproductive Rights and Health, with Special Emphasis upon Achieving SDG 5

## I. Denmark’s Position and Background

Denmark stands at the forefront of promoting reproductive rights and achieving gender equality, as enshrined in SDG 5. Our nation recognizes that access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) is not only fundamental to individual well-being but also essential for inclusive development and economic growth. Since the legalization of abortion in 1973, Denmark has built an inclusive healthcare framework where free and legal abortion up to 18 weeks, access to contraceptives, and mandatory sex education form the pillars of our reproductive health system.

With deep-rooted feminist values and a strong welfare state, Denmark promotes reproductive autonomy, freedom of identity and expression, and ensures these rights irrespective of age, gender identity, or socio-economic background. Denmark’s low maternal mortality and high contraceptive prevalence rate reflect our commitment to SRHR as a human right and public health priority.

## II. International Commitments and Actions

Denmark upholds international agreements like the 1994 Cairo Programme of Action, CEDAW, and the Istanbul Convention, and actively funds UNFPA, IPPF, and AmplifyChange to extend access to SRHR globally. Through Danish development cooperation, Denmark contributes 1% of its GNI to international aid, with SRHR forming a central focus. In 2022, Denmark pledged approx. $700 million toward gender equality and sexual health projects globally, targeting vulnerable communities, including women in conflict zones, refugees, and LGBTQIA+ individuals.

Denmark also supports initiatives for comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) worldwide, pushing for fact-based, inclusive curricula in schools and communities, initiatives like week sex and normstormerne programmes . We emphasize intersectionality, recognizing that gender inequality is compounded by poverty, ethnicity, disability, and displacement.

## III. Proposed Solutions and Policy Recommendations

While Denmark has made substantial progress, it acknowledges global disparities in reproductive rights. We urge this committee to consider the following solutions:

* Universal Access to SRHR Services:
Encourage all nations to ensure free or affordable access to contraceptives, safe abortion, prenatal/postnatal care, and menstrual health support, respecting national sovereignty but aligning with UN human rights frameworks.
* Gender-Sensitive Legislation:
Urge member states to decriminalize abortion and eliminate coercive reproductive policies, replacing them with laws that empower individual bodily autonomy.
* Invest in Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE):
Advocate for age-appropriate, scientific, and culturally sensitive education to reduce teenage pregnancies, combat gender-based violence, and eradicate taboos.
* Support for LGBTQIA+ Reproductive Rights:
Promote inclusion of gender-diverse individuals in SRHR policies and healthcare systems, particularly ensuring safe access to fertility services and STI prevention.
* Global Partnership and Funding:
Call for increased international funding and multi-stakeholder partnerships to bridge SRHR gaps in low- and middle-income countries, especially in humanitarian crises.
* Address Legal and Cultural Barriers:
Encourage public awareness campaigns, community dialogue, and legal reform to eliminate stigma, myths, and patriarchal barriers to SRHR.

## IV. Conclusion

Denmark remains firmly committed to a world where every person—regardless of gender, age, or identity—has the right to decide freely about their body, health, and future. We believe achieving SDG 5 is impossible without universal SRHR, and we urge this committee to act boldly, collectively, and inclusively.

Let us frame a future where reproductive rights are not a privilege, but a guaranteed right for all.