

## Media Statement

**London, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022:** If you are covering the U.K.'s new international development strategy, you may find the below statement from the International Planned Parenthood Federation helpful.

**Dr Alvaro Bermejo, Director-General of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, said:**

While, in theory, the U.K.'s new international development strategy prioritizes women and girls, it is unclear how the government will provide 'the freedom they need to succeed' while simultaneously cutting billions from the very things that help achieve this, including unhindered access to life-saving sexual and reproductive healthcare which helps keep girls in school, protects them from a lifetime of poverty and helps prevent untimely maternal deaths.

It is also unclear how the U.K. will prevent the worst forms of human suffering in humanitarian contexts when the 2021 aid cuts left millions of women across Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Ukraine, Sudan and Syria and Yemen with no control over their bodies, their futures, or their lives. And more so, while this government chooses to distribute the dedicated aid budget to fund other government departments rather than increasing overall budgets.

Until this government returns to the 0.7% target, this strategy will be little more than lip service from a government that knowingly robbed women and girls of their freedom and futures during the upheaval of a global pandemic when continued solidarity, support and humanitarian assistance from the wealthiest nations was most needed.

**-Ends-**

**For media enquiries, please contact Karmen Ivey on [kivey@ippf.org](mailto:kivey@ippf.org) or [media@ippf.org](mailto:media@ippf.org)**

### About the International Planned Parenthood Federation

The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) is a global service provider and advocate of sexual and reproductive health and rights for all.

For over 65 years, IPPF through its 118 Member Associations and 15 partners, has delivered high-quality sexual and reproductive healthcare and helped advance sexual rights, especially for people with intersectional and diverse needs that are currently unmet. Our Member Associations and partners are independent organizations that are locally owned, which means the support and care they provide is informed by local expertise and context.

We advocate for a world where people are provided with the information they need to make informed decisions about their sexual health and bodies. We stand up and fight for sexual and reproductive rights, and against those who seek to deny people their human right to bodily autonomy and freedom. We deliver care that is rooted in rights, respect, and dignity - no matter what.