



Warsaw, 19/02/2013 AD

The *Ordo Iuris* Law Centre, a Polish legal organization protecting human rights and preventing the social exclusion of the weakest members of society, wishes to express its opinion on the “Draft Report- Health in the Post-2015 Development Agenda” (hereinafter referred to as Draft Report).

The *Ordo Iuris* Law Centre finds the meanings of “reproductive rights” and “reproductive health” given in the Draft Report highly controversial. The Draft Report understands “reproductive rights” as “un-reproductive rights”. These “rights” are associated with a controversial policy of population reduction.

Under the heading “Potential goals for health”, the Draft Report listed, “Universal access to sexual and reproductive health and protection of reproductive rights” (p. 24). As it is clear from the text on the same page, one of the most important services within the framework of “reproductive health” is “access to legal and safe abortion on demand”, which is to be subject to monitoring. Even more confusing is the statement on page 15 where universal access to reproductive health services is defined as a “basic human right”. These are highly controversial statements, which should be excluded from the report for several reasons:

1. Countries with very restrictive abortion laws (i.e. Ireland, Poland, Chile, Malta) have very successful maternal health care with lower maternal mortality rates than countries providing free access to abortion.
2. Numerous women have died in abortion clinics while undergoing so-called “safe abortions”. In fact, the very expression “safe abortion” is a contradiction.
3. Abortion is very often a means of oppressing women in countries such as China or India, where women are forced to terminate their pregnancies. Thus, abortion is an example of sex-based oppression of women. It is not their “right”, as it is unfortunately described in the Draft Report.
4. Abortion is often selectively applied. More specifically, abortion is often a way to avoid giving birth to girls. Again, abortion seems to be one of the most powerful means of oppressing women, not their “right.”
5. Under international law, “the right to abortion” does not exist. Therefore, calling “abortion on demand” a “basic human right” seems to be a profound abuse of the language.

In conclusion, the fight for the equality of women, and the protection of their rights (including those related to health), demand the immediate reduction, and even the prohibition, of abortion worldwide. Unfortunately, the Draft Report presents access to abortion as one of the post-2015 goals of the WHO. Therefore the *Ordo Iuris* Law Centre strongly opposes the “reproductive health” agenda as presented in the “Draft Report- Health in the Post-2015 Development Agenda”.

This statement is to be published.

*Ordo Iuris* Law Centre