

# WMG statement UN Water Convention plenary

Thank you chair

**I speak on behalf of the Women's Major Group**, my name is Sascha Gabizon of Women Engage for a Common Future.

**Millions of girls** do not have safe sanitation at school and are forced to stay home and miss school during their period.

Millions of young girls and other menstruators suffer from **menstrual-poverty**, they have no access to affordable **sanitation products**.

**Menstrual health and dignity should be at the centre** of our Water and Sanitation policies, and we should do away with menstrual taboos and discrimination.

For example, **we are outraged** when we hear that Florida lawmakers try to [ban girls from school](#) just for **speaking** about their **periods**.

Governments must uphold the commitments they have made, in the **Convention to End Discrimination Against all Women and Girls**,

and the UN General Assembly **Resolution on the Human Right to Water and Sanitation**,

and in **Sustainable Development Goal target 6.2**, that state women and girl's needs for sanitation should be ensured.

But only some 40 countries are reporting on **menstrual health management** in their reporting to GMP.

Even fewer governments are working on promoting menstrual health products that are **better for the environment and climate**, that can be reused, **without toxics and chemicals**.

**We the women and feminist organisations here at the UN Water Conference, are committing** to keep on putting pressures on our government to develop **National Menstrual Health Strategies**.

**We will continue to do so, to** ensure that each menstruator has:

- Access to sanitation with **safe spaces for menstruation in schools**
- including **free of charge reusable menstrual products**, in schools
- Ensure that menstruators have **access to a basket of choice** of affordable menstrual products, including by **a zero-VAT on reusable menstrual products**.
- Promote **local production** of a range of reusable menstrual health and hygiene products, **including pads and cups**, that create jobs and access in particular in rural areas
- Ensure that **comprehensive sexuality education** covers **menstruation**
- Strengthen **feminist menstrual movements** in countries and regions, such as the Pacific Menstrual Health Coalition

Thank you chair