

## Key Messages from the Women in Global Health movement for the Summit of the Future

### The future we want is a healthy future for all

- Health is a universal human right, fundamental to human well-being, prosperous economies and peaceful societies
- The pandemic has devastated health systems, economies and increased inequality between and within countries, including gender inequality
- We must rebuild societies, economies and health systems with the rights of women and girls and gender equality as guiding principles, based on numerous commitments by member states
- We cannot plan for the future without health for all as our overarching ambition

### Gender Equality plays a critical role in Global Health:

- Women play a crucial role in global health, constituting 70% of the workforce in health. only 25% of senior leaders in global health are women.
- Women health and care workers are clustered in lower status and lower paid jobs, earning 24% less than their male counterparts, and contributing an estimated USD\$1.5 trillion in unpaid care work to the global economy. WGH advocates for all health leaders, regardless of gender, to be gender transformative leaders, intentionally addressing gender inequities in the health sector.
- Any setbacks in gender equality can lead to catastrophic impacts on health services, emphasizing the necessity for prioritizing fundamental rights and gender equality. Ensuring gender equality is pivotal in maintaining and enhancing health services and universal access to healthcare.

### Gender-responsive health systems and Universal Health Coverage (UHC) are a priority for the future:

- The Summit of the Future should highlight the SDG commitment to UHC and ensure UHC is at the forefront of collective global actions.
- Member states must deliver on all commitments to gender-responsive health systems, gender equality and the rights of women and girls in the High-Level Political Declaration made at the UN General Assembly in September 2023
- Governments must design, properly resource, and deliver health systems based on gender-responsive policies and health services, ensuring the elimination of gender inequality and discrimination

### Fundamental Rights must be defended:

- Conservative forces, state, and non-state, are exerting pressure in international arenas, threatening fundamental rights and equality principles, especially gender equality. Women in Global Health is particularly alarmed at the speed and scale of the global to national campaign to roll back women's rights and gender equality in health, including Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR).



- o Organized civil society, advocating for vulnerable populations, remains resolute in defending achieved progress, particularly in the context of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- o Women and girls cannot realize their right to health until they have bodily autonomy and their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) are central to health services. Progress in achievement of all SDGs, and especially women's rights and gender equality, are at risk because of these challenges to fundamental rights.

**Global Risks require urgent multilateral action:**

- o Global risks like the climate crisis, inflation, conflicts, and wars disproportionately affect vulnerable populations and countries, particularly in the Global South.
- o Multilateralism is essential for a coordinated response sensitive to differential impacts on women, girls, and vulnerable populations, safeguarding advancements in healthcare and social welfare.
- o Climate change, conflicts, and economic regressions threaten progress in health systems, leaving vulnerable countries struggling to invest in social welfare and meet health needs.
- o We ask Member States to deliver the commitments made to the rights of women and girls and gender equality as fundamental to the future of humanity and the future of the planet.