

Speaker: Meghan Doherty

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**Human Rights Council 31st session
Agenda Item 6 Universal Periodic Review of GEORGIA
Statement by Action Canada for Population and Development**

Thank you Mr. President. Action Canada makes this statement in collaboration with Real People Real Vision, member of the ASTRA network and the Sexual Rights Initiative.

The Government of Georgia has accepted a wide range of recommendations relating to different aspects of sexual and reproductive health and rights. These include recommendations on ensuring the financing of, and reinforcing the capacities of professionals in the provision of health services for survivors of domestic and gender based violence; eliminating child, early and forced marriage through the adjustment of the national legal framework, and taking all necessary measures to prevent domestic violence, including by raising awareness, encouraging women to report acts of sexual and domestic violence, protecting victims and ensuring the effective investigation, prosecution and punishment of perpetrators.

We encourage the government to work closely with civil society organizations on the implementation of these recommendations and to ensure that the areas that are crucial to protect, respect and fulfill the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls, are also implemented. These key areas, amongst many others include: the provision of comprehensive sexuality education in formal and informal settings, the improvement of data collection on women and girls access to quality health services, including sexual and reproductive health services; the decriminalization of drug use and ensuring sustainable harm reduction services are adopted for women; the liberalization of laws and policies on sex work; and providing access to sustainable prevention, treatment and care services for HIV, HCV and STIs.

Thank you