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NOTE

From: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)
On: 11 December 2014
To: Council (EPSCO)

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Subject: "Gender equality in the EU: the way forward after 2015. Taking stock of 20
years of implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action"
Draft Conclusions on the review of the implementation of the Beijing
Platform for Action by the Member States and the EU institutions
- Statements

Delegations will find attached statements by Malta, Germany and Hungary, which will be recorded
in the Council's minutes.

Statement by Malta

Paragraphs 14, 16 and 20(k)

While recognising the contribution of the EIGE's Report "Beijing + 20: the 4th Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the EU Member States" and acknowledging that the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development should indeed contribute to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of all human rights, Malta would like to recall that any recommendation or commitments made by the European Union in relation to critical areas of concern under the Beijing Platform for Action, including any development of indicators, should in *no way create an obligation on any party to consider abortion as a legitimate form of reproductive health or rights or commodities.*

Statement by Germany

Paragraph 20(i)

Germany welcomes the Council Conclusions.

Regarding Para 20(i), Germany recalls Resolution 68/309 of the UN General Assembly, in which the UN General Assembly welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals shall be the main basis for integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into the post-2015 agenda.

Germany supports the decision of the UN General Assembly and is committed to preserve the substance of the proposal in its entirety. In this context, we understand Paragraph 20 (i) as a confirmation of the proposal of the Open Working Group.

Statement by Hungary

The adoption of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action marked a remarkable consensus. They placed the enjoyment of human rights at the heart of development and important gains in the fields of health, gender equality and education have been achieved since their adoption.

Hungary remains dedicated to its commitments in the field of human rights and to the implementation of the Programme of Action and Platform for Action as primary points of reference to the terms of sexual health, reproductive health and reproductive rights. As the term “sexual and reproductive health and rights” remains undefined, Hungary can only interpret “sexual and reproductive health and rights” in line with its national legislation.
