

**44th session of the Council of human Rights
Benelux Intervention**

**On the 1st Panel of the annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women –
Accountability for women and girls in humanitarian settings
Geneva, le 13 July 2020**

Thank you Madam President,

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the three Benelux countries, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

In recent years, ~~the~~ accountability for women and girls in humanitarian settings has gained some momentum within the development and humanitarian aid community. But the work and resources that are being put into action that are gender focused are still very far from an ideal. Often, the gender perspective is added as an afterthought to a programme and ~~it is~~ not properly integrated.

Accountability for women and girls is only a minor tool within development programs and ~~it is~~ mostly often based only on methods, tools and mechanisms to get statistics and results within the programs. But this is not the essence of accountability. ~~The W~~ women and girls on the ground need to know that they have rights and that they can grow beyond their situation. We need to work on the norms and beliefs of the people in the community to reach any lasting results.

Additionally, there is a movement against accountability for women and girls on the multilateral level and we need to push back. We need to be able to integrate accountability into programs by openly talking about ~~in~~ their sSexual and

Commented [LG1]: Hun often eraus geholl wells de daat schon uewen benotz

Commented [LG2]: Stoung daat och esou am rapport ? Verstinn deen Satz irgendweis net mee vleit well ech net am Thema dran sinn.

rReproductive hHealth and rRights and we need to further support women human rights defenders and women's rights organizations (reprisals?).

Finally, we need to work on intersectional cooperation as accountability for women and girls relies on many other human rights like the right to education, the right to freedom of expression and association and the right to freedom of information and political participation. Women and girls need to be able to access these rights without fear of repercussion/reprisals?.

Therefore, we would like to ask the Panel, how can we best integrate accountability for women and girls on the ground especially for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights with regard to changing the norms and beliefs within their societies?

Thank you Madam President.