

Case She Decides Taskforce Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Share-Net Intl. Thematic meeting Contraception and Abortion 23 May 2017

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Summary:

Thanks to all participants for coming by this table, and to the organizers for creating this opportunity for She Decides!

Essentially, the discussion that ensued from the three rounds of visitors to the She Decides table can be roughly categorized in four areas:

1. Factual questions
2. Questions about vision and philosophy, including food for further thought
3. Take-aways for the She Decides Support Unit
4. Bold ideas!

Ad 1: Factual questions

These included:

- How does She Decides fit into the existing aid/SRHR architecture? For instance, how does FP2020 relate to She Decides?
- How will She Decides continue after the ministerial conference on 2 March and Minister Ploumen's visit to Kenya? What exactly is the Support Unit? Is there political/diplomatic follow-up?
- What is the She Decides agenda? If it is 'the broad SRHR agenda' what does this constitute exactly?
- What happens to the around Euro 180 mln which participants committed on 2 March?
- What happens to the crowdfunding raised?

2. Questions about vision and philosophy, including food for further thought

These included:

- How to take grass-roots advocacy for She Decides and translate it in support of services/service organizations?
- How to use She Decides to implement e.g. Every Woman/Every Child and the Global Strategy on Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health? (Can we use the fact that She Decides seems to speak more to people than the 'SRHR' acronym, which many do not understand?)

- She Decides has also triggered conversations about national governments' dependency on US aid funding. In some countries, this has already led to increased funding for SRHR from the national budget.
- How to protect the integrity of the She Decides brand? And how to match this aim with the fact that, as this is a movement of all for all, the initiators are letting She Decides go roll out into the world?

3. Take-aways for the She Decides Support Unit

These included:

- Calls for regular updates on She Decides (newsletter).
- Much interest in the creation of a Market Place at which potential partners can find one another and join forces to act and implement in the name of She Decides. Suggestion to study the Global Innovation Exchange of Dance4Life for experiences and inspiration.
- Engage with other communities, e.g. climate.
- Better understand the value which She Decides as a brand may have. E.g. in Kenya organizations distributing contraception use She Decides for their marketing.
- Related to the previous point, more broadly: can the MCP trigger us as SRHR community to review our approaches and to up our efficiency and effectiveness, product innovation and market innovation? She Decides has the potential to boost SRHR implementation fundamentally.
- Participants urged that She Decides seek constant visibility. Good example: the recent visit by Minister Ploumen to Kenya. This type of visibility needs to be continuous. In addition, it is important that the She Decides message remains simple and easy to understand. The Support Unit will push for these things.

4. Bold ideas!

These included:

- Share-Net Intl. can be a platform to connect partners.
- Share-Net Intl. can be a platform for dialogue between those who sign the Mexico City Policy (now: Super Global Gag Rule) and those who do not. Important as an SRHR community to remain united and not let the MCP drive a wedge between us.
- The MCP is about funding but also about values. SRHR is also about values. Let us recognize these values, make them explicit and discuss them (rather than shying away from mentioning them, and retreat into our 'comfort zone' of technical/medical facts and evidence). The anti-choice movement does not have the monopoly on values.
- As an SRHR community, we need to be open to new partners (e.g. ClIFF, Global Citizen e.a.).
- Include She Decides in the national SDG reporting of the Netherlands, possibly in collaboration with Belgium.