

5

**Statement by Dorota Trypens, Action Canada for Population and
Development, to the Human Rights Council on the Universal Periodic
Review on Argentina, June 11, 2008**

In reference to paragraphs 16 and 25 of the Working Group Report¹, we regret that the issue of women's sexual and reproductive health and rights was raised as a question but did not translate into any recommendation.

Implementation of the National Law on Sexual and Reproductive Health mentioned in para. 16 is very unequal across the country, due to lack of political will on the part of some authorities and uneven distribution of contraceptive devices to public hospitals.

In Argentina, unsafe abortion is the leading cause of maternal mortality and it is also a problem of social justice because it affects poor women in a disproportionate way. In 5 years (from 1995 to 2000), admissions to public hospitals for unsafe abortion-related causes increased in a 46%². In order to implement the recommendations that Argentina has accepted in relation to women's rights and against discrimination (1,2 and 17³) it is urgent that the government takes action to protect women and girls' lives by, inter alia, guaranteeing ample provision of contraceptive devices to stop abortions, regulating the provision of therapeutic abortions that are currently allowed by law

¹ A/HRC//8/34

² The 46% figure corresponds to the national average. In some provinces, the increase in admissions due to unsafe abortions between 1995 and 2000 is three times higher than the national average: Buenos Aires (70%), La Rioja (143%), Misiones (62%), San Luis (148%) and Santa Cruz (63%). Hoja Informativa N° 03/ CEDES ,FEIM ,IPPF WH , Junio 2007 de despenalización.org.ar, Zamberlin, N., "El aborto en la Argentina".

³ A/HRC/8/34, para 64

and providing proper medical care to women and girls who have undergone unsafe abortions. Given the Argentinean government proved commitment to human rights, we have no doubt that it will act promptly on this matter.