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REFERENCE: WRGS/LOH/Res21/6

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights presents its compliments to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva and has the honour to refer to Resolution 21/6 entitled "Preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and human rights" adopted by the Human Rights Council on 9 October 2012. This resolution welcomed the technical guidance on the application of a human rights-based approach to the implementation of policies and programmes to reduce preventable maternal mortality and morbidity (hereinafter "technical guidance"), and called upon all relevant actors, including Governments, regional organizations, relevant United Nations agencies, national human rights institutions, and civil society organizations to disseminate the technical guidance and apply it, as appropriate, when designing, implementing and reviewing policies and evaluating programmes to reduce preventable maternal mortality and morbidity.

The Office was requested to prepare a report on how the technical guidance has been applied by States and other relevant actors, to be presented to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-seventh session. In this context, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights would like to request information on how your Government or organization has disseminated and applied the technical guidance. In particular, information on the following would be welcome:

1. Has your Government or organization disseminated the technical guidance? If so, please specify channels of dissemination and target audiences (e.g., relevant Ministries, legislators, service providers, national human rights institutions, civil society, media, and other relevant stakeholders)
2. Has your Government or organization applied or have plans in place to apply the technical guidance in its policy development, review or evaluation or in programme design, implementation or evaluation? If so, please provide examples, including details of the added value of utilizing the technical guidance and outcomes.
3. How has the technical guidance assisted your Government or organization in examining existing policies, budgets or programmes related to maternal, sexual and reproductive health?
4. Has the technical guidance assisted your Government or organization in building enhanced understanding of the requirements of a human rights based approach? If so, please expand upon the impact that such enhanced understanding has for the design and implementation of policies and programmes in this area.
5. What challenges does your Government or organization face in implementing the technical guidance? Please elaborate on the nature of these challenges and steps taken to address them.

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The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights would be grateful if submissions could be limited to five pages and sent to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (United Nations Office at Geneva, CH 1211 Geneva 10; Fax. +41 22 917 90 08; Email: registry@ohchr.org) by 7 March 2014.

Please indicate whether the information provided can be made available on the OHCHR website. Any enquiries may be made to Lucinda O'Hanlon at lohanlon@ohchr.org, telephone: +41. 22. 928 9152.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva the assurances of its highest consideration. *sp*

