



Statement on the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health: Health As an Enabler of Dignity, A/HRC/62/66

Geneva, 17 June 2026

The South Centre thanks the Special Rapporteur for this powerful report.

Our statement focuses on three priorities for developing countries: health equity, international cooperation and solidarity, and maternal health and sexual and reproductive health rights.

On health equity, the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health is not only about access for all to hospitals and medicines. It requires States to address the social, legal and economic conditions that determine whether people can live healthy lives with dignity, and to remove discriminatory laws that leave the poorest furthest behind. It is a legal basis to advance equitable access to vaccines and medicines, and for the financing and fairer rules needed to close health gaps within and between States.

On international cooperation, the report rightly recognizes that the right to health cannot be realized by national action alone. Persistent power asymmetries continue to disadvantage developing countries. The negotiations on the Annex to the Pandemic Agreement are a clear example, and a fair, equity-driven outcome is essential. In this regard, we also call for the implementation of the right to international solidarity.

On reproductive health, punitive laws criminalizing reproductive decisions, unsafe restrictions and obstetric violence are inconsistent with the right to health and human dignity. States must ensure respectful maternity care, confidential services, and access to family planning, particularly for women and adolescents.

Finally, the South Centre wishes Special Rapporteur Mofokeng every success, with gratitude for her contributions in discharging the mandate using anti-racist and anti-colonial frameworks.