

# Preface

The world is still struggling with how to best face discrepancies and inequalities in the access to quality health services and the defense of human rights for girls and women to meet the 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Targets.

The International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) is in a unique position to contribute to the achievement of those Goals and Targets as it brings together professional societies of obstetricians and gynecologists on a global basis. Contributions can be made in various ways, amongst which advocacy has its role to play.

This is why our FIGO Committee for Women's Health and Human Rights decided to prepare this Handbook to help FIGO Member, National Societies of Obstetricians and Gynecologists engage in rights-based advocacy, prompting governments to take steps in achieving girls' and women's health and rights. More specifically, it provides a detailed description of how to effectively use selected United Nations human rights mechanisms to advance girls' and women's health and rights at national levels.

The Handbook project was made possible thanks to the human-rights expert, Carola Carazzone, having accepted the challenge to lead the members of the research team, from the Faculty of Law of the University of Torino, Italy, who dedicated themselves to the collection and analysis of the data. Silvia Mazzarelli and Ludovica Poli, two other experts in the field, also gave invaluable contributions. I am grateful to all of them for the passion they put into this feat.

Hopefully, this Handbook will become a user-friendly advocacy tool for FIGO Member Societies, who wish to contribute to the UN's selected Bodies for more conducive legislation, regulations, and policies to sustain girls' and women's health and human rights.

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