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

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.

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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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