Thank you for the opportunity to review the Second Discussion Paper containing Draft One, “Global plan of action to strengthen the role of the health system in addressing interpersonal violence, in particular against women and girls, and against children”.

Please see the following comments for your consideration:

1. Overall, the document is well organized, with consistent sections/structure for Violence against women and girls (VAWG); Violence against children (VAC); and All forms of interpersonal violence: cross cutting actions.
2. Intro section doesn't entirely clarify why they include these various areas of violence (VAWG, VAC, and interpersonal violence) in the plan of action, what differentiates the 3 types of violence (particularly interpersonal violence), or how governments should prioritize actions across these various categories/forms of violence. While the compelling reasons and unique characteristics of VAWG and VAC are laid out clearly (paragraph 3 and 4), there's a less clear justification/rationale on overall interpersonal violence, particularly given the plan's focus on health systems. Furthermore, the importance of a multi-sectoral response comes up primarily in paragraph 5 in the context of interpersonal violence, even though a multi-sectoral response is essential for all forms of violence (including VAWG and VAC), as explained later in the plan of action.
3. The plan of action specifies intimate partner violence and sexual violence, which is very important and should be mentioned specifically.
4. The references to FGM and CEFM in paragraph 4 in Overview section, as well as in other places in the program of action, are well articulated and very important to keep throughout the document.
5. Under "health consequences" sub-section of Overview, paragraph 12 should include mention of fact that violence/abuse may contribute to self-inflicted harm, including suicide.
6. Under "progress in countries and gaps", paragraph 19 makes a brief mention that "few countries ... report having mental health services for survivors/victims of violence". It would be useful for the plan of action to highlight this particular gap by making it a separate paragraph, thus giving greater focus to mental health care in social and medical services.
7. In section A (VAWG), paragraph 6 under 'Member States and national and international partners' states that need to "Strengthen accountability of the health system in (1) addressing violence experienced by health workers in the work place...". This wording could suggest the need to focus on response and perhaps de-emphasizes prevention measures. Alternative wording might be "Strengthen accountability of the health system by (1) ENSURING THAT THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IS A SAFE WORK PLACE FOR ITS STAFF"
8. In section A, strategic direction 3, paragraph 12, suggest second bullet to include "Address factors associated with DATING AND intimate partner violence such as harmful alcohol and substance use..."

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best, Michal