

**Statement of the German Government
on the occasion of the “Access for All” Conference, Addis Ababa,
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Currently, more than 215 million women in the developing world who wish to protect themselves from unintended pregnancy, cannot access safe and reliable methods of contraception. Resulting unplanned and often risky pregnancies lead to health complications and unsafe abortions which bring preventable morbidity and mortality to hundreds of thousands of women and infants each year. Addressing this unmet need of contraception does not only contribute to fulfilling women’s right to health. It also enables women and couples to decide responsibly on the number and spacing of their children. This, undoubtedly, impacts positively on the health and education standards of their children, their economic perspectives as well as overall on population dynamics and the level of attainment regarding the Millennium Development Goals.

The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ) has been giving high priority to support Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights over the last 25 years and in recent years has supported both the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition (RHSC) and the Partnership on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH). According to the annual UNFPA ‘Donor Support Report’, Germany - through KfW Entwicklungsbank - has been one of the leading bilateral donors for contraceptives and condoms over the last decade. In 2010 German funding saw the second highest increase compared to 2009 funding levels (from US\$16M to US\$26M).

The German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (through KfW Entwicklungsbank) has been an active member of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition since 2005. In this context we actively participated in the conception, development and financing of approaches to address the reproductive health supplies such as the “Minimum Volume Guarantee” which became “AccessRH”, the innovative and interactive procurement mechanism managed by UNFPA’s Commodity Procurement Branch in Copenhagen whose development we are co-financing to the tune of €1M. We eagerly await the completion and scaling-up of this successful pilot effort.

In 2010 the international community committed itself to new initiatives as well as to increased political and financial efforts. This is especially true for the Muskoka Initiative on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health which was announced at the 36th G8 summit and which commits member nations to collectively spend an additional \$US5 billion between 2010 and 2015 to accelerate progress towards the achievement of

MDGs 4 and 5. Moreover, the Secretary General's *Global Strategy for Women and Children's Health* was announced in September 2010 and is supported by the contributions of more than 40 governments as well as civil society and private sector actors. With this we see unprecedented momentum in the global development community to improve women's health.

As part of the G8-Muskoka Initiative and in support of the Secretary General's Global Strategy, the German Government has announced the commitment of an additional €400M until 2015. This will result in an average annual German commitment to MNCH (multilateral and bilateral) of €380M. To realise this commitment, the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has set up its own "Initiative on rights-based Family Planning and Maternal Health" with the following three goals:

1. to increase knowledge and acceptance of modern family planning methods;
2. to improve access to effective family planning methods and services; and
3. to increase skilled attendance at delivery.

To reach these goals, the German Government, together with its partners, will follow a rights- and gender-based approach.

The initiative will focus on the support and intensification of the following measures:

- Prioritize family planning in international policy dialogue with development partners, as well as in bilateral activities and public relations;
- Increase yearly bilateral commitments for reproductive health and family programs by 100% as compared to commitments in 2008 (from about €40M to more than €80M annually);
- Support partner institutions in identifying new approaches to inform and communicate family planning messages in cooperation with non-state actors, foundations and the private sector;
- Support innovative educational and communication approaches to raise awareness; and
- Strengthen the training of midwives and other health workers to improve skilled attendance at delivery.

To implement the G8-Muskoka-Initiative and the BMZ-Initiative on rights-based family planning and maternal health, we have decided to scale-up ongoing German programmes by building on the needs and national strategies of our partner countries and by using national coordination forums with other development partners.

We see the successful achievement of our commitment as having a significant impact on the lives and well-being of women and families across the developing world. We expect to see increases in lives saved, contraceptive supplies delivered, and behaviours positively changed as a result of implementing effective programmes and approaches that reflect Germany's commitment to support family planning as part of a broader effort to strengthen health systems in our partner countries.

We applaud the Coalition for the **HANDtoHAND** Campaign and its effort to rally the family planning community in support of the Secretary General's *Global Strategy*, and we look forward to working with our Coalition partners in bringing family planning to 100 million new users by 2015.