



August 9, 2011

Dear Members of the Executive Committee of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition,

Every year, hundreds of thousands of women die in childbirth and from pregnancy-related causes. While excellent progress has been made in reducing maternal mortality rates in some countries, more remains to be done to achieve the targets set out in the Millennium Development Goals. Reproductive health supplies, including family planning, are essential to achieving these Goals. And with the announcement of the Secretary General's *Global Strategy for Women and Children's Health*, we see unprecedented momentum in the global development community to improve women's health.

Ipas is a nonprofit organization that works around the world to increase women's ability to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights. We seek to eliminate unsafe abortion and the resulting deaths and injuries. Moreover, we strive to foster a legal, policy and social environment supportive of women's rights to make their own sexual and reproductive health decisions freely and safely.

Ipas has been an active member of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition since 2009. We fully support the **HANDtoHAND** Campaign to galvanize our community's contribution to the Secretary General's *Global Strategy* and endorse the Coalition's ambitious new goal of achieving 100 million new users of contraception in low-income countries by 2015. Success at meeting this challenge will address the family planning needs of 80% of women in these countries.

To demonstrate our support to the **HANDtoHAND** Campaign, Ipas is proud to commit to the following:

- Ensure a minimum level of 60% of women receiving care at Ipas intervention sites receive a modern contraception method prior to discharge.
- Provide technical assistance to local- and national-level partners in the twenty-six countries where we work to train reproductive health-care providers, equip health-care sites, and increase access to contraceptive services.
- Strengthen public health systems in the countries where we are programmatically active, through technical assistance to ministries of health, health systems, and health-care sites.

Ipas is deeply committed to reducing abortion-related maternal mortality and morbidity. 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 applaud the Coalition for the **HANDtoHAND** Campaign and its effort to rally the community in support of the Secretary General's *Global Strategy*, and we very much look forward to working with our Coalition partners in bringing family planning to 100 million new users by 2015.

Sincerely,

Ann Leonard
Executive Vice President, Training and Services