

October 12, 2010

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

Population Action International (PAI) fully supports the **HANDtoHAND** Campaign to galvanize our community's contribution to the Secretary General's *Global Strategy* and we endorse the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition's 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, and reduce by 110,000 the number of women who die giving birth. 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.

Since 1965, Population Action International (PAI) has been working to ensure that every person has the right and access to sexual and reproductive health, so that humanity and the natural environment can exist in balance and fewer people live in poverty. In 2001, along with JSI and the Wallace Global Fund, PAI helped orchestrate the historic Istanbul meeting, which launched the decade long movement that has brought widespread gains in ensuring that men and women around the world have access to the supplies needed for good reproductive health. Since then, through research and advocacy efforts, we have focused on increasing the evidence base of the supplies issue, and building the capacity of civil society organizations around the world to improve policies, increase available resources, and hold policymakers accountable for their promises.

To demonstrate our support to the **HANDtoHAND** Campaign, we at Population Action International are proud to commit to the following:

- **Supporting civil society partners** from various regions of the world in their RH supplies advocacy efforts by providing advocacy and communications technical assistance
- **Pursuing new advocacy-oriented research opportunities** to help inform the next decade's advocacy agenda
- **Ensuring that major global proceedings, initiatives and commitments prominently feature RH supplies so that advocates can then hold their governments accountable**

We see our commitment having a significant impact on the lives and wellbeing of women and families across the developing world. There is a growing sense of responsibility to increase access to family planning at the national level and civil society holding governments accountable to their policies and promises. As outlined in our most recent advocacy film, [Empty Handed](#), produced by PAI with support from the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition (RHSC), everyone has a role to play in increasing access to reproductive health supplies. Our commitment will support a strong civil society, contribute to a robust and current evidence base, and help ensure good policy frameworks.

We applaud the RHSC 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 to bring family planning to 100 million new users by 2015.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Ehlers,  
President, Population Action International