



One Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza  
9th Floor  
New York, NY  
10017

Tel: +1 212-339-0500

Fax: +1 212-755-6052

E-mail: [info@popcouncil.org](mailto:info@popcouncil.org)

[www.popcouncil.org](http://www.popcouncil.org)

**John Townsend**

Vice President, Reproductive Health Program

Phone: 202-237-9400

E-mail: [jtownsend@popcouncil.org](mailto:jtownsend@popcouncil.org)

September 27, 2010

Dear Members of the RHSC Executive Committee,

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. 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.

Population Council is an international nonprofit organization that seeks to improve the well-being and reproductive health of current and future generations around the world. Since 1952, Population Council has been a leader in conducting world class research on a broad range of issues, combining excellence in operations research and implementation, the development of new contraceptive methods and the strengthening of local health systems to build capacity and increase access to reproductive health services around the world.

Population Council has been an active member of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition since 2005. 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, the Population Council is proud to commit to the following:

- Provide technical support to local- and national-level partners in the forty-five countries where we work to develop effective and quality reproductive health programs and increase access to contraceptive services.
- Develop and test the effectiveness and acceptability of new reproductive health technologies designed to benefit women and men in developing countries.
- Develop collaborative relationships with governments and pharmaceutical companies to license, register, and/or manufacture technologies developed by the Council in support of increased access and choice in reproductive health programs in developing countries.

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 look forward to working with our Coalition partners in bringing family planning to 100 million new users by 2015.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Townsend', written over the word 'Sincerely'.

John W. Townsend, Ph.D.  
Vice President, Reproductive Health

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The Population Council conducts research worldwide to improve policies, programs, and products in three areas: HIV and AIDS; poverty, gender, and youth; reproductive health.