



THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

June 22, 2011

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the U.S. Department of State, I am delighted to send my greetings to those gathered in Addis Ababa for the *Access for All Conference*. While I regret I am unable to be with you in person, I thank you and applaud your leadership and commitment to improving maternal and child health and the availability of contraceptive supplies.

Family planning is an important investment with the potential to save millions of lives and empower women and girls throughout the world. When women are healthy, their children are healthier, their families are healthier, and their communities are healthier. Tragically, hundreds of thousands of women die each year from complications related to pregnancy or childbirth. An estimated 215 million women would like to avoid pregnancy but are not using modern methods of family planning. Access to family planning is a critical part of the solution.

The United States has long been a leader in developing and delivering successful family planning programs, and we have placed women and girls at the forefront of our development strategy. Today, through the President's Global Health Initiative and with our new alliances, the U.S. Government, through USAID, will continue to be the largest single contributor to reproductive health commodity security. Our alliance with the United Kingdom, Australia, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will contribute to the goal of ensuring that 100 million more women meet their family planning needs by 2015. By boosting the number of skilled birth attendants, babies delivered in clinics or hospitals, and women and newborns who receive quality medical care, we will save lives and improve the health of women and children across the globe. Improved access to modern contraception remains a key factor in achieving this goal, and the U.S. Government strongly supports the work of this Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition. We are proud to be a part of this global partnership dedicated to making essential reproductive health products available in low and middle-income countries.

I hope you take this conference to reflect on what has been done in the past ten years, and to plan for the future. Thank you for your hard work and please know you have my very best wishes for an enjoyable and productive conference. Working together, we can help meet the urgent needs of women and their families around the world.

Sincerely,


Hillary Rodham Clinton