



Info Pack

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF THE
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SUPPLIES COALITION**
OSLO 2015



2015 is a threshold year for the international development community. During this year, the Millennium Development Goals come to term and attention turns to the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals. Those of us involved in sexual and reproductive health and rights – and particularly family planning – will also see a new global strategy for Every Woman Every Child and its funding mechanism, the Global Financing Facility. As our landscape changes, organizations working at the macro and micro levels must understand and actively engage in ongoing discussions, and they must continue to operate seamlessly as they play their part in the provision of quality reproductive health supplies to people in low- and middle-income countries.

At our 16th General Membership Meeting from 05-09 October 2015 in Oslo, Norway, we will use the post-2015 development agenda to frame our conversations, and use our pillars – availability, choice, equity and quality – as a lens through which we will explore these issues in greater detail. Coming on the heels of the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, our meeting could not be timelier. Through plenary and parallel sessions, we will hear voices from those working at the global, regional, country and local levels, learn from one another and work together to find the best way forward for the reproductive health supplies community. Join us in Oslo to engage and contribute to these important discussions.

Registration/Badges

For security reasons, please confirm your participation for any events by completing the online registration [through our website](#).

All participants and official guests are requested to wear their name badge during all events. Admission to the sessions is restricted to registered participants wearing their name badge.

Your badge will be handed out at the registration desk at Radisson Blu Scandinavia Hotel in Oslo.

Venue

All meetings will take place at the Radisson Blu Scandinavia Hotel in Oslo.

This impressive Oslo hotel rises 22 stories and overlooks the stunning fjord.

Only 500 meters from Karl Johans Gate, the hotel allows guests to conveniently access attractions and transport options.

The stylish rooms and suites are perfect for relaxing and unwinding after a busy day, and the dining options are some of the best in the city. Guests also benefit from a convenient fitness room on site.

Airport

The preferred airport for Radisson Blu Scandinavia Hotel/Thon Hotel is Oslo Gardemoen airport— 47 km away.

Airport Pick-Up/Drop-Off

By taxi:

Taxis are very expensive in Oslo; a taxi from Oslo Gardemoen Airport to the Radisson Blu Scandinavia/Thon Hotels would cost around NOK 760 (approx. EUR 90,-/USD 100,-). We recommend using the train, which is also faster.

By train:

The Airport express train goes to the National Theatre station, located within a seven-minute walk to/from the hotel. Please make sure you take the train in the direction of “Drammen” and stop at the National Theatre station. Once you exit the train, walk toward the “Karl Johans gate” exit. From there, please use the map below for walking directions.

www.flytoget.no

Journey time: 26 minutes / Cost one-way: NOK 180 / Train interval: every 20 minutes

By bus:

The Flybussen bus service operates from the airport. While not as quick a journey as the train service provides, it is convenient, as the bus arrives at /departs from your hotel entrance. At the airport, please make sure you turn left when leaving the arrival baggage hall. Upon leaving the airport building, you will find the bus station immediately in front of you.

www.flybussen.no/en

Journey time: 55 minutes / Cost one-way: NOK 175 / (Radisson Blu Scandinavia guests will get a discount showing their reservation) / Bus interval: every 20 minutes

Parking:

Car parking is available in the garage in the hotel for an extra fee.

Public transport in Oslo

All the public transport in Oslo and the surrounding county Akershus are part of the same ticket and price system. This applies to buses, trams, subways (t-bane), ferries, and local trains.

See more at: [Public transport in Oslo](#)

Accommodation

The Radisson Blu Scandinavia**** - Official congress hotel

Holbergsgatan 30, 0166 Oslo, Norway, Phone: +47 23 29 30 00

Website: radissonblu.com/scandinaviahotel-oslo

Negotiated rates of the RHSC block are:

Single room: NOK 1.395,- / Double room NOK 1.395,-

The room rates above include breakfast, Wi-fi, VAT.

Upgrade: NOK 200,- for superior room

NOK 500,- for business class room

Bookings for this special congress rate can only be made online via the link on our congress website or directly with the hotel.

The promotional code for the special rate will be provided in the confirmation email of your registration.

Booking deadline: September 18, 2015!

Official Check-in / Check-out times

Check-in: 15:00 hrs

Check-out: 12:00 hrs

Breakfast

Monday – Friday: 06:30 – 10:00 hrs

Saturday: 06:30 – 11:00hrs

Sunday: 07:00 – 11:00 hrs

Internet access

Free throughout the hotel

Access by room number and last name

Business Centre

Two computers – extra fee for use

Parking

Car parking is available in the garage in the hotel for an extra fee.

THON HOTEL EUROPA*** - Opposite the Radisson Blu Scandinavia hotel

St. Olavs Gate 31, 0166 Oslo, Norway Phone: +47 23 25 63 00

Website: thonhotels.com/hotels/countrys/norway/oslo/thon-hotel-europa/

Negotiated rates of the RHSC block are:

Single room: NOK 1095 ,- / Double room NOK 1.295,-

The room rate above includes breakfast, Wi-fi, VAT.

Bookings for this special congress rate can only be done directly with the hotel as indicated on our congress website.

The promotional code for the special rate will be given in the confirmation email of your registration.

Booking deadline: September 14, 2015!

Official Check-in / Check-out times

Check-in: 15:00 hrs

Check-out: 12:00 hrs

Breakfast

Monday – Friday: 06:30 – 10:00 hrs

Saturday: 06:30 – 11:00 hrs

Sunday: 07:00 – 11:00 hrs

Internet access

Free Wi-fi throughout the hotel

Business Centre

No business centre

Parking

Car parking is available in the garage in the hotel for an extra fee.

ATM

There is no ATM inside the Radisson Blu Scandinavia hotel, but you can exchange EUR and USD at the hotel reception desk.

We also recommend using FOREX, which is about a ten-minute walk from the hotel, as you will get a better deal there.

The closest ATM can be found inside 7-11 across the street, about 50 metres from the hotel.

You can also withdraw cash from the ATMs at the airport upon arrival.

Culture

With the adventurous spirit of the Vikings woven throughout its history, Oslo is a modern city that is very involved in global politics (while at the same time resistant to joining the European Union). Oslo holds power and influence as a capital, despite Norway's relatively small population.

Part of this modern feel is due to the influence of the arts and sculpture of the city. Oslo is home to the National Gallery and the National Museum for Contemporary Arts as well as a remarkable museum dedicated entirely to Edvard Munch's work.

The Vigeland Sculpture Park—an 80-acre park filled with life-sized human sculptures by Gustav Vigeland—is one of the most popular sites in Oslo; it is a hauntingly beautiful display of humanity.

One of Oslo's most unique attractions is the Kon-Tiki Museum. This museum is dedicated to Thor Heyerdahl, a man true to the Viking spirit of the Norse, and his adventures sailing around the world on a 30-foot-long homemade raft.

Oslo also boasts of the Nobel Peace centre, with its many exhibitions primarily dedicated to Nobel Peace Prize winners.

Oslo's economy is booming; it is one of the most expensive cities in which to live, alongside Dubai and Tokyo.

An interesting place to shop is the very large and posh Paleet mall.

Norwegian people are friendly, and education is taken very seriously in Oslo, as it is throughout the rest of Scandinavia. Most Norwegians speak some English. Oslo's history will surprise you around every corner, as its old culture is so well-integrated with the new.

Tours

For private tours we recommend:

HMK Bus Tours

<http://www.hmk.no/sightseeing/>

Bookings for this special congress rate can only be done directly with HMK Bus Tours ONLINE via [this link](#).

The promotional code for the special rate will be given in the confirmation email of your registration.

Norway Yacht Charter A/S - Fjordcruise

www.boatsightseeing.com

sales@boatsightseeing.com

Tel: 47/23 35 68 90

Currency/Exchange Rate

The Norwegian currency consists of "kroner" (NOK) and "øre" .100 øre equals 1 kroner.

An indication of the exchange rate of the Norwegian Kroner is:

1 Norwegian Kroner = USD 0,1262

1 USD = 7,6030 Norwegian Kroner

1 Norwegian Kroner = EUR 0,1190

1 EUR = 8,3529 Norwegian Kroner

Electricity

- › Voltage: 220-240 Volts (US/Canada are 110-120 Volts)
- › Primary Socket Type: Europlug, Schuko

Emergency

In case of emergencies during the conference, please contact the staff at the registration desk or the hotel reception for first-aid service.

General Information

In Oslo, smoking is illegal in hotels, restaurants, and all public places in Oslo. As a consequence, smoking is prohibited in all parts of the hotel except in designated bedrooms and public areas where smoking is permitted.

Insurance and Liability

It is highly recommended that all participants carry proper individual travel and health insurance, as RHSC/PATH and/or its agents cannot accept liability for accidents, illnesses, or injuries that may occur at or during the meetings.

Mobile Phones

As a courtesy to speakers and other delegates, we request that all mobile phones are turned off before entering the meeting.

Safety

Oslo is less dangerous than most other cities. Just use the same street smarts you would use at home. Do not carry valuables in a knapsack on your back (especially on public transport), and keep your camera close to you.

Taxis

Taxis are very expensive in Norway.

There are taxis available in all cities and most towns, and drivers usually speak English.

You can take a taxi at the many taxi ranks throughout Norway. You are free to use any taxi company you wish and do not have to choose the car that is first in line at the rank. You can also hail a taxi on the street or simply call for one.

The recommended taxi company is OSLO Taxi.
Tel +47 02323

Tips

In Norway, tipping is not required at any establishment. Service charges (as well as sales tax) are always included in the bill at restaurants and bars. However, it is usual for Norwegians to leave a tip in restaurants and bars if they are happy about the service. You can round to the nearest 10 or 100 NOK (leaving coins); a 10 to 15 percent tip is considered generous. For Norwegians, it is uncommon to tip taxi drivers or cleaning staff at hotels. Other service personnel rarely receive tips.

Visa Requirements

Norway takes part in the Schengen co-operation, and therefore nationals from countries within the Schengen area do not have to show their passports when entering Norway. However, you must show an official document that properly establishes your identity. We therefore recommend that you bring your passport for this purpose.

For all other nationals, please use the [Norwegian Directory of Immigration website](#) to check whether you need a visa as well as the requirements.

Weather

October is a beautiful time to visit Oslo with spectacular autumn colors, but temperatures are considerably lower than in September—averaging 6°C (43°F). The average rainfall is about 68mm, and visitors should expect three hours of sunshine every day. At night, you are likely to see frost and foggy conditions.

Conference Secretariat

For any questions, please contact:

The RHSC 2015 Congress Administrative Secretariat

AIM Group International, Vienna Office

Mariannengasse 32, A-1090 Vienna

Phone +43 1 402 77 55 620

Fax +43 1 402 77 31

Email: rhsc2015@aimgroup.eu



Restaurant Suggestions close to the hotel

Havsmak

www.havsmak.no/english

Starters from	EUR 16,-/USD 18,-
Main course from	EUR 32,-/USD 35,-
Dessert from	EUR 13,-/USD 15,-

The location is excellent. Havsmak is situated very close to Slottsparken and next to the Foreign Ministry. Havsmak—which means “Taste of the Sea”—is a small restaurant that focuses on produce from the sea.

Havsmak is an intimate restaurant where the design has been thought out down to the smallest detail. Just inside the entrance, guests are met by a chandelier consisting of some hundred wires, decorated at the ends with small white light-bulbs. One wall is decorated with a mosaic painting while the dining room appropriately has an aquarium.

Behind the bar, which occupies a central position in the room, various spirits are lined up on modern shelves of steel. Everything is elegant and tasteful.

Den Glade Gris

www.dengladegriss.no

Starters from	EUR 10,-/USD 11,-
Main course from	EUR 20,-/USD 22,-
Dessert from	EUR 10,-/USD 11,-

A so-called gastro pub specializing in pork dishes, a very friendly beer-pub atmosphere, great pork dishes, and great beer offers.

Restaurant Louise at the Marina

www.restaurantlouise.no

Starters from	EUR 15,-/USD 17,-
Main course from	EUR 22,-/USD 24,-
Dessert from	EUR 10,-/USD 11,-

An excellent location to find long-cooked meats and winter foods. Shellfish are also at their peak during autumn/winter, and Norwegian seafood is among the best in the world, influenced by the cold and clear Norwegian fjords.

Restaurant Onda

www.onda.no

Onda Sea

Starters from	EUR 16,-/USD 18,-
Main course from	EUR 33,-/USD 36,-
Dessert from	EUR 16,-/USD 18,-

Onda Grill

Starters from	EUR 18,-/USD 19,-
Main course from	EUR 27,-/USD 30,-
Dessert from	EUR 16,-/USD 18,-

Seafood restaurant and grill with the best view in Oslo.

Onda Restaurant is an elegant, informal restaurant house located on Aker Brygge, with two different restaurants.

Onda Sea focuses on delicious seafood and has the best views in Oslo, while Onda Grill offers meat and seafood dishes against a backdrop of inspiring architecture.

Restaurant Onda is an ideal choice for eating meals with friends and business acquaintances as well as for special celebrations.

Paleet Restauranter

www.restaurantpaleet.no

Five different restaurants in the basement of the Paleet Shopping Centre, easily accessible from Radisson Blu Scandinavia, (approximately an 8-minute walk).

Sabaki Restaurant

www.sabaki.no

Japanese restaurant

Tepanyaki from	EUR 15,--/USD 16,--
Grill courses from	EUR 16,--/USD 18,--
Dessert from	EUR 9,--/USD 10,--

Kafé Løve

(in the same building as Det Norske Teateret, approximately a 7-minute walk)

www.kafelove.no

Starters from	EUR 17,--/USD 19,--
Main course from	EUR 32,--/USD 35,--
Dessert from	EUR 15,--/USD 16,--

Oliva

(Italian restaurant chain, one located at Aker Brygge—approximately a 13-minute walk-- and one located at Tjuvholmen—approximately an 18-minute walk)

www.olivarestauranter.no

Starters from	EUR 8,--/USD 9,--
Main course from	EUR 17,--/USD 18,--
Dessert from	EUR 8,--/USD 7,--

Festningen Restaurant

(at Akershus Fortress, approximately a 17-minute walk)

www.festningenrestaurant.no

Starters from	EUR 21,--/USD 23,--
Main course from	EUR 35,--/USD 39,--
Dessert from	EUR 17,--/USD 19,--

Festningen Restaurant is a spacious, elegant, and unpretentious brasserie with one of Oslo's best views.

Frognerseteren Restaurant

(approximately 30 minutes by metro; great view)

www.frognerseteren.no

Starters from	EUR 18,--/USD 20,--
Main course from	EUR 41,--/USD 45,--
Dessert from	EUR 15,--/USD 16,--

Frognerseteren is beautifully situated between the city and the forest. The restaurant is an intimate dining place with a spectacular view from all the tables. Reservation recommended. Fresh ingredients directly from locally sourced game and fish.

Grefsenkollen Restaurant

(approximately 25 minutes by taxi, or ask restaurant if they can offer pick up service from Storo, where you can get to by public transport; also has a great view)

<http://www.grefsenkollen.no/>

3-course dinner menu from	EUR 74,--/USD 81,--
5-course dinner menu from	EUR 100,--/USD 110,--

The warm atmosphere of the big Peisestuen spring, combined with delicious food and drink and stunning views of the city and bay, make this restaurant experience at Grefsenkollen special and a little different.

We have two menu choices for dinner guests—three or five course meals made of the best available ingredients. There may be small daily changes in menus.



The Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition

The Coalition is a global partnership of public, private, and non-governmental organizations dedicated to ensuring that everyone in low- and middle-income countries can access and use affordable, high-quality supplies for their better reproductive health. It brings together agencies and groups with critical roles in providing contraceptives and other reproductive health supplies. These include multilateral and bilateral organizations, private foundations, governments, civil society, and private sector representatives.