Women's Reproductive Choices:
An Essential Foundation for Development and Security in Africa

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Overview

- Reproductive choice, development, and security
- Reproductive choice and human rights
- Securing reproductive rights in Africa
- The way forward
Women – more than “half the sky”
Unwanted pregnancy and unsafe abortion in Africa

- High unmet need for contraception
- 6.2 million unsafe abortions annually
- 207,000 maternal deaths annually
- 29,000 deaths due to unsafe abortion
Reproductive choice and human rights

- 1968 International Declaration on Human Rights established **basic human right to determine freely and responsibly the number and the spacing of children**
- Reaffirmed at global population conferences in 1974 and 1984
- ICPD 1994 and beyond: the “SRHR” paradigm
- UN Human Rights Council, 2011: “decriminalize abortion”
Securing reproductive rights in Africa

- Maputo Plan of Action, 2006
- Legal and policy reforms across the region
The way forward: integrated reproductive health care

- Evidence-based
- Cost-effective
- Integrated
The way forward: new strategic alliances for reproductive rights

- Women’s groups
- Human rights advocates
- Business and finance leaders
- The media

Deaths from unsafe abortion • Can be prevented