Largest-Ever Global Family Planning Conference to Open This Week in Ethiopia

Thousands of political leaders, advocates and experts will highlight the wide-ranging benefits of ensuring everyone has access to contraceptive information and tools that meet their needs.

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 11 November 2013—This week, Ethiopia will host the third International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP 2013) to urge greater global action to ensure all people have the contraceptive information and tools they need to plan their families and their lives. The meeting, organized around the theme “Full Access, Full Choice,” will bring together thousands of advocates, researchers, health professionals and political leaders from more than 100 countries and will be the largest family planning conference to date.

Ethiopian leaders—including Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, First Lady Roman Tesfaye and Minister of Health Dr. Kesete-birhan Admasu—will host the conference and highlight the successes of Ethiopia and other countries in expanding access and choice in family planning. A major focus of the meeting is to take stock of progress in reaching 120 million additional women with contraceptive information and tools by 2020, a global goal agreed upon at the 2012 London Summit on Family Planning.

Ethiopian officials will be joined by UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin; Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Co-Chair Melinda Gates; African Union Chair Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma; US Assistant Secretary for Population, Refugees and Migration Anne Richards; Joint Secretary of India’s Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Anuradha Gupta; and UK Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development Lynne Featherstone.

Each day of the conference will focus on a theme central to expanding family planning access and choice:

- **Making a Difference through Sustained Political Commitment – 12 November**: At the conference’s opening ceremony, Prime Minister Desalegn and other leaders will discuss the role of political commitment in expanding family planning access and choice worldwide.
- **Achieving Equity through Women in Leadership – 13 November**: Speakers will highlight female champions for family planning and the role of female leaders in promoting gender equity.
- **The Young and the Restless: Effective Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Programs – 14 November**: Dynamic youth speakers will address the importance of ensuring that young people have access to family planning information and programs that meet their unique needs.
- **Moving Forward: Highlighting Progress and New Commitments – 15 November**: The final day of the conference will focus on progress and new commitments to expand contraceptive access and choice. The winners of the first Excellence in Leadership for Family Planning (EXCELL) Awards will be announced at the closing ceremony.

Directly preceding the conference on 12 November, a High-Level Ministerial Meeting will bring together more than 20 Ministers of Finance and Planning, Health, Youth, and Gender to discuss the investments
needed—especially in family planning—to meet the needs of Africa’s youth today, and to maximize their future potential for national development.

ICFP 2013 is jointly organized by the Ministry of Health of Ethiopia and the Bill & Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

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WHAT: International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) 2013

WHEN: 12-15 November 2013

WHERE: African Union Conference Center, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

MEDIA RESOURCES: Online media resources, including the press program and press releases, are available here. The ICFP 2013 plenary program is available online here, and the full conference program can be found here.

SOCIAL MEDIA: For more information, please follow the #ICFPLive Blog, Facebook, Twitter and Tumblr.

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