



Check against Delivery

**Annual Meeting of the
Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition**

RH Commodity Security

Statement

by

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Today I applaud the partnership, commitment and action of the Coalition and its members who have impact at the global level. But as we all know, the clock is ticking, and 2015 – the date set for achieving universal access to reproductive health – looms ever closer. Now, more than ever, we have to redouble our efforts to ensure universal access to reproductive health. As we meet here today, unmet need is great, and with large youth populations and increasing demand, unmet need only continues to grow.

The sense of urgency that I know we all share is merely heightened when we consider that reproductive health commodities are as important to HIV prevention and maternal health as vaccines are to child survival.

Our challenge as partners is to accelerate action at the country level to achieve universal access to reproductive health. To do this, we need political commitment and leadership. We need to use national systems and processes, in line with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. And we need to coordinate our efforts and ensure mutual accountability.

Reproductive Health Commodity Security is achieved when all individuals can choose, obtain and *use* affordable, quality reproductive health commodities of their choice, whenever they need them. This focus on use emphasises that RHCS is a human rights issue, intimately linked to the right to health and to questions of equity, equality and the empowerment of women and girls. It also highlights that RHCS only makes sense when it promotes an integrated multi-sectoral approach that actually improves people's lives – and so issues of quality of care, an enabled policy environment and broad improvements of health systems benefit the end user.

To stress this focus, all of us together have developed The Global Programme to Enhance Reproductive Health Commodity Security. With its strong adherence to the guiding principles of the Paris Declaration, this initiative puts governments and their national counterparts in the driver's seat and provides a flexible framework

Given the scope of the challenge, none of our organizations can do this alone. We need to work together. The potential of the Coalition to ensure coherence at the national level between sometimes disparate and diverging voices will be crucial.

We, therefore, call upon you to ensure that we work closely together at country level, to collaborate with our national partners within the forum of the RHCS Coordination Committees. We believe that this mechanism is fundamental to ensure that governments and their national counterparts define, own and drive what they want to achieve.

We believe that now is the time for greater partnership and action. And we at UNFPA are committed to doing our part and working with you and others to make sure that greater progress is achieved. Working together, we can come closer to ensuring that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV and AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.

Thank you.