



2010 ANNUAL MINISTERIAL REVIEW

AFRICA REGIONAL MEETING

12-13 January 2010, Dakar, Senegal

ANNUAL MINISTERIAL REVIEW

Background

The Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) was established by Heads of State and Government at the 2005 World Summit. It was mandated as an instrument to track progress and step up efforts towards the realization of the internationally agreed development goals (IADGs), including the Millennium Development Goals, by the 2015 target date.

2010 AMR

In 2010, the Review will focus on *"Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women."* The AMR process leading up to the ministerial review consists of three main elements: national voluntary presentations, country-led regional reviews and a global review, based on a comprehensive report by the Secretary-General.

AFRICA REGIONAL MEETING ON WOMEN'S HEALTH

The objective of the regional consultations is to (1) support the AMR preparations by focusing on the overall performance of the region; (2) focus on a specific aspect relevant to countries in the region; (3) exchange lessons learned and identify examples of best practice; (4) provide an opportunity to prepare the launch of new partnership initiatives; (5) promote multistakeholder engagement early on in the AMR process.

Thematic Focus

In today's world women's ill health remains a major obstacle to achieving gender equality. Maternal health is the MDG the world has made least progress on. Every year more than half a million mothers die during childbirth or in the

six weeks after delivery. In many countries the objective of universal access to reproductive health services by 2015 remains out of reach. Women are also among the most vulnerable groups to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Further, limited health literacy and political and economic participation significantly undermine progress towards women's health goals. Many of these challenges are especially critical in the African region.

Objective

The objective of the Africa regional meeting in Senegal is to raise awareness that women health is not only a public health issue. Health outcomes are heavily impacted by social, economic and cultural factors. Improving women's health will therefore require comprehensive approaches which address the basic rights of women to food, shelter, health, education, income, and participation, access to health services, including reproductive health and the right to be free from violence.

Format

The two-day meeting will consist of a set of panel discussions. Participants will explore policy responses and identify examples of best practice that could be brought to the attention of the Council. The composition of the roundtable will aim to incorporate diverse perspectives to facilitate an interactive debate. The discussion will be based on an analytical background note.

Outcome

A summary of the meeting will inform the Council's deliberations in July 2010, in New York. The event is expected to identify follow-up actions and new partnerships to be undertaken by the relevant stakeholders in the region.