

Towards the Goal of Ensuring Universal Access to SRHR

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Growing up in Ethiopia in 1950s, it was easy to see why sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) mattered. My grandmother had only one child, a girl, and I remember that was like a crime at the time. My mother lost a child a few weeks after birth. I remember the girls at my school suddenly disappearing having become pregnant, and then having to give up their babies to ensure no shame fell on their family. All these events shaped my thinking around issues on women and families. That's why, when I joined IPPF in 2002 as Director of the Africa Regional Office, I was keen to make sure that IPPF put women at the centre of its work. I want to make every woman has access to high quality services wherever and whenever.



was proud to work in partnership with governments, and civil society to realize this achievement. In the final communique, G7 leaders prioritized SRHR as critical to promoting women's, children's and adolescent's health, achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and strengthening health systems, including in humanitarian settings. Our close partnership with the Government of Japan and their continued commitment to achieving women's and girls' health through UHC meant that the SDGs linked to SRHR and UHC gained the support of this influential group of world leaders.

The next challenge is how to convert these political commitment to practical action. It is imperative that these com-

mitments are matched by financial and technical resources to ensure UHC, including sexual and reproductive health care. IPPF has a bold vision for the next seven years, the Strategic Framework – Locally Owned, Globally Connected – expands on Japanese Prime Minister Abe's vision to “make women shine” and realize human security. It sets ambitious targets to provide services to individuals in humanitarian crises, while continuing to provide high quality and rights-based services, while forming partnerships with women's and youth organizations to empower them to advocate on SRHR and gender equality, and to support women to be leaders in every area of their lives.

Together, with the support of leaders such as Japan and other likeminded countries, volunteers, activists and IPPF members and staff around the world, we can work together to ensure that everyone has access to SRHR and can fulfil their potential.

SDGs pushes our work up the political agenda. With targets on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, the global community has come together to ensure that releasing the economic potential of women is central to ending poverty, forever. This commitment to SRHR in the 2030 Agenda was followed by a momentous step forward in May 2016 when the G7 leaders committed to “ensuring SRHR without discrimination of any kind” at the G7 Summit in Ise-Shima, Japan. IPPF

Buildings spreading over the hills in central Kigali, the capital of Rwanda (Photo: Takeshi Kuno)

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Cover: “No one left behind”- with SDGs,
a new challenge has already began.
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Photo on pages 2-3:
Buildings spreading over the hills in
central Kigali, the capital of Rwanda
(Photo: Takeshi Kuno)



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