



## The MDGs and Sexual and Reproductive Health E-Bulletin August 26, 2005

*Dear Colleagues,*

*As the 2005 World Summit, to be held in September 2005 draws nearer, Family Care International is preparing and distributing periodic e-bulletins to ensure that organizations working on sexual and reproductive health and rights around the world are kept up to date.*

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### Action Needed Now to Protect Reproductive Health

With just under three weeks until the 2005 World Summit, the draft outcome document has come under severe attack. This week, the US proposed over 750 amendments to the draft and began floating suggestions that the text be abandoned in favor of a shorter 3-5 page "leaders" text. The US's line edits of the draft outcome would substantially weaken commitments on development. They suggest the deletion of all references to the Millennium Development Goals, 0.7% ODA, and the paragraph on improving health systems and weaken language on HIV/AIDS, as well as many other issues. The US's edits maintain the paragraph on universal access to reproductive health by 2015, as well as the reference to access to reproductive health as a necessary measure to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment. However, if governments are unable to reach consensus on the draft outcome document in its current form and move towards adopting a shorter text, language on reproductive health, gender equality, and other development and human rights issues will be extremely vulnerable.

**We need to mobilize now** to ensure that strong language on reproductive health and other important issues remain in the text. In the coming week, it will be important to call, write letters, and meet with your government representatives, to:

- Ask them to continue to support the current draft of the outcome document and resist pressure to adopt a shorter declaration or to weaken the text;
- Ask them to defend the language on reproductive health during the final negotiations;
- Ask the delegation to affirm the importance of universal access to sexual and reproductive health services and information in their country statement delivered at the Summit; and
- Find out if your head of state or government will attend the Summit and who else will be on your governmental delegations, including NGO and youth representatives.

Governments need to know that NGOs are on the lookout and expecting them to take the bold actions necessary to ensure reproductive and sexual health, end poverty, and improve the lives of women, men and children worldwide. Let your government know that we need a strong outcome in September and that you are expecting them to deliver it.

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## Making Progress

At the **3rd Asian Women Parliamentarians' and Ministers' Conference**, held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on August 3, 2005, women parliamentarians committed themselves to promoting universal access to reproductive health information and services in their countries and raising awareness about the contribution of sexual and reproductive health toward achieving the MDGs. At the meeting, organized by the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, 36 parliamentarians from 18 Asian countries, as well as a number of observers, made personal commitments to take specific actions towards this goal. For example, Princess Sisowath Santa, MP from Cambodia, committed to create a national committee within parliaments to promote the MDGs, while Senator Claire Smith from Australia committed to hold seminars on the MDGs for other parliamentarians.

To find out more about this conference and the personal commitments made by parliamentarians, click here: <http://www.afppd.org>

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## Briefing Cards: Millennium Development Goals and Sexual and Reproductive Health

FCI's briefing cards on the Millennium Development Goals and sexual and reproductive health are now available in English, French and Spanish!

Order free hard copies of the briefing cards online at:

[http://www.familycareintl.org/pubs/publications\\_SRH.php](http://www.familycareintl.org/pubs/publications_SRH.php) or send an email specifying how many you would like and where they should be sent to [fcipubs@fcimail.org](mailto:fcipubs@fcimail.org).

Download the PDF versions at: [http://www.familycareintl.org/pubs/publications\\_SRH.php](http://www.familycareintl.org/pubs/publications_SRH.php).

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## Calendar of Events

### September

7-9	Meeting of Speakers of Parliament (New York, USA)
7-9	DPI-NGO Meeting (New York, USA)
10	Global Call to Action against Poverty White Band Day (Global)
12	Launch of the Partnership for Newborn, Maternal and Child Health (New York, USA)
14-16	General Assembly High-Level Plenary to Review Implementation of MDGs (New York, USA)
15-17	Clinton Global Initiative Inaugural Meeting (New York, USA)

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