

UNITED NATIONS



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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

**MESSAGE TO PACIFIC HEALTH SUMMIT
London, 22 June 2010**

Each year millions of women, children and infants die from preventable causes. Together we have an opportunity to bring about real change – to deliver on the promise of health for all women and children.

To do this, we need to pull together existing efforts in an integrated strategy. We have developed a draft Joint Action Plan to do just that – a plan that sets out the key steps required for every part of the world’s health infrastructure to work together towards one goal. Building on existing commitments, the plan aims to embed women’s and children’s health into wider development issues, increase investment in basic health systems and build on successes and best practices.

We know how to improve the health of women and children. We know how to save lives. The answers lie in providing universal access to family planning; making pregnancy and childbirth safe; ensuring better care for newborn children; and increasing prevention and treatment for HIV/AIDS, TB, pneumonia, diarrhoea and malaria.

Governments, philanthropic organizations, academic institutions and, in particular, businesses such as those represented at this meeting are well placed to develop new ways to meet the needs of women and children worldwide. By combining efforts, we can make improved health for women and children play a catalytic role in progress towards all the Millennium Development Goals.

In September, world leaders will gather in New York for the MDG Summit to assess progress and set out concrete, time-bound steps and targets for the time that remains before the 2015 deadline. I hope Member States will endorse the Joint Action Plan for Women’s and Children’s Health at the highest level.

This year’s Pacific Health Summit can support this goal. Let us work together for new commitments in funding and services, more innovation and ideas, and new directions in policy-making. Let us make this a year of decisive action – a year when the world decided that no woman should die giving life and no child should be lost for want of care.

Pleased accept my best wishes for a successful Summit.