

Oral Statement presented to the 43rd session of the Commission on Population and Development on the theme: "Health, Morbidity, Mortality, and Development" by non governmental organizations in consultation with ECOSOC: World Population Fund, Ipas, Population Action International, International Planned Parenthood Federation/Western Hemisphere Region, International Women's Health Coalition, Catholics for Choice, Family Care International, the Center for Reproductive Rights and Human Rights Watch.

Every year, more than half a million women die and an untold number suffer temporary or long-term disabilities from preventable pregnancy-related causes and complications during childbirth. The majority of maternal deaths

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worldwide are due to hemorrhage, infections, unsafe abortion, eclampsia, and obstructed labor.

Most of these deaths can be prevented by the provision of high-quality reproductive health services, including Maternity care- antenatal care, skilled attendance at delivery, emergency obstetric services, and post-natal care

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These services must be provided as one element of the comprehensive sexual and reproductive health (SRH) package needed to curb maternal mortality. Investments in comprehensive sexuality education, access to contraception, safe abortion, and diagnosis and treatment of STIs, including HIV enable girls and women to determine the timing and spacing of their pregnancy to decide whether

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