

21 July 2006

The Safe Abortion Action Fund

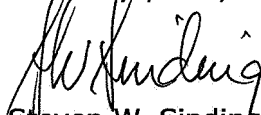
It is with great pleasure that I announce the launch of a groundbreaking new fund to reduce unsafe abortion around the world. The **Safe Abortion Action Fund** (SAAF) is a targeted reserve of resources to enable the implementation of programmes and initiatives to increase access to safe abortion services within a comprehensive package of reproductive health services, with particular regard for the needs of marginalized and vulnerable women. The purpose of the fund is to provide grants to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that will enable them to implement specific, in-country initiatives to increase their work in any area along the abortion continuum. The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) urges all eligible non-governmental organizations to submit groundbreaking proposals to the Fund.

Unsafe abortion is an epidemic that affects millions of women and girls around the world. Each year, an estimated 19 million women and girls, faced with unintended or unwanted pregnancies, risk the deadly consequences of unsafe abortion. Nearly 70,000 of these women and girls will die, and hundreds of thousands of others will be left with debilitating and/or lifelong injuries as a result. Over 96 per cent of these women will come from the world's poorest nations. The Safe Abortion Action Fund provides the opportunity for non-governmental organizations to realize their goals of increasing access to safe abortion and to make real and significant changes in women's lives.

To contribute toward the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal on maternal health, which includes a target on reducing maternal mortality, IPPF will prioritize proposals that come from the poorest countries where the need for improved abortion services is greatest. The Safe Abortion Action Fund will provide grants of up to \$350,000 for a maximum of two years. Proposals must address one of three thematic areas: advocacy, operations research or service delivery.

For more information on the Safe Abortion Action Fund or to apply, please refer to the Safe Abortion Action Fund summary document, the Application Guidelines and/or the Application Form. These are all available from the IPPF web site at www.ippf.org or by writing to saaf@ippf.org. IPPF eagerly awaits your proposals, to be received no later than **30 October 2006**. Together, we will reduce the incidence of unsafe abortion; we will secure the future of women's health and well-being worldwide.

Sincerely yours,



Steven W. Sinding
Director-General