



**Launch of the WHO report  
"Women and health: today's evidence tomorrow's agenda"  
9 November 2009, Geneva, Switzerland**

**Statement by Jeffrey L. Sturchio, President  
Global Health Council**

Health systems must take gender differences seriously if we are to erase the inequities that still affect women and girls at all stages of their lives in too many parts of the world.

Unless we accept that girls and women should have equal opportunities for access to health products and services, there is little hope of achieving the Millennium Development Goals and other key targets.

The information and recommendations in "*Women and health: today's evidence tomorrow's agenda*" could not come at a better time. There is growing momentum to improve health outcomes for women and girls on everything from reducing maternal mortality to addressing the increasing burden of noncommunicable diseases such as cancer.

The Global Health Council welcomes this WHO report and looks forward to working with our partners in government, civil society and the private sector to ensure a healthier future for women and girls.