

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

**Statement by Sarah Degnan Kambou, Chief Operating Officer
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Women have a fundamental right to be healthy and fulfill their potential. Investing in their health is not only a deeply moral imperative, it will yield significant benefits in social and economic development. As *Women and Health* outlines, persistent gender inequalities underlie poor health outcomes for women and girls.

The International Center for Research on Women has worked for more than 30 years to demonstrate practical ways to empower women and promote gender equality. We must now translate what we know into global policy and practice at the scale necessary to bring about transformative change.

The World Health Organization has issued an important call to action by identifying the key priorities necessary to accelerate progress. With sufficient investments, political will and collaboration across sectors, we can improve the health of not just women and girls but entire communities and nations.

**WOMEN
AND
HEALTH**