



## **Launch of the WHO report**

***"Women and health: today's evidence tomorrow's agenda"***

**9 November 2009, Geneva, Switzerland**

### **Statement by Anders Nordström, Director-General Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)**

The report is a unique effort to highlight the continuum of women's health issues together with the continuum of broad social and health determinants that form female health and well-being throughout a lifespan. I deeply compliment WHO for this ambitious, profound and thorough piece of work which in a very concrete way reminds us of the important normative role WHO plays. Hence, this report also provides us with a crucial vision if the world is to reach the fifth Millennium Goal on increased maternal health.

I believe the report offers a necessary holistic perspective that emphasizes the significance of a woman-centered approach in the planning of health systems and other interventions to improve women's health as well as required prerequisites for their own ability to lead healthy lives. The insightful report will be of great value for my organization as a working tool in our policy processes and quality assurance work, not only on health and gender issues but also in other related fields such as education and social protection.

Gender equity and mainstreaming of the same, in development cooperation is a Sida priority. This report will strengthen our evidence-based knowledge, deepen our understanding and provide a plentitude of renewed and welcome entry points to the subject. Hopefully this will work to reaffirm that the design of health care services have to take off in the firm principle of equal rights for girls, boys, women and men.