

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

Statement by the Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations Office and the International Organizations at Geneva

Spain would like to congratulate WHO and in particular the Department of Gender, Women and Health (GWH) for its efforts to advance women's health and gender equality. This report compiles in a comprehensive way the evidence needed to make health systems more responsive to girls' and women's needs and constitutes the starting point in mainstreaming gender into the health sector as well as into WHO policies and programmes, in line with WHA 60.25 Resolution: "Strategy for integrating gender analysis and actions into the work of WHO".

We endorse the leading role of WHO to advance women's health and gender equality in health and consider that coordination and partnership with other UN agencies, ministries of health, civil society and other stakeholders is key to attaining the Millennium Development Goals.

One of the goals of the Spanish Multilateral Cooperation is to improve women's health within the framework of gender equality and women's empowerment and to recognize health as a basic human right, including sexual and reproductive health. This report is a major step towards this goal.