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Concept Note

Family Planning Summit – 11 July 2017

Voluntary family planning saves lives and has the power to boost the development of entire countries. It empowers women and girls to complete their education, create or seize better economic opportunities and to fulfil their potential. Enabling women to make decisions about their health and future is not only the right thing to do, it is one of the best buys in international development, creating more stable and more prosperous societies around the world.

Today, there are approximately 225 million women in developing countries who want to time, space or prevent a pregnancy but are not using modern contraception. Fulfilling their unmet need for contraception would save lives, reducing maternal death by a quarter. It would avert 52 million unintended pregnancies around the world, which in turn would prevent the deaths of some 70,000 women from related complications.

The 2012 London Summit on Family Planning built on existing initiatives to put family planning higher on the global agenda and established the Family Planning 2020 partnership. It reinforced a movement that is saving women's lives – more than 100,000 last year alone – and transforming communities. Countries have led the way, and for the first time in history, 300 million women and girls in the world's poorest countries are choosing to use modern contraception. However, to reach our shared goal of empowering 120 million additional women and girls to use modern contraception by 2020, we must accelerate progress.

This year – just past the halfway mark to 2020 – is an ideal opportunity to reenergise global commitment to rights-based family planning. It is the moment to commit to more urgent and intensified action to accelerate progress to the Family Planning 2020 goal and our shared vision of universal access to sexual and reproductive health, including family planning, as laid out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Reaching our 2020 goals will mean a better chance of enabling every woman to fulfil her right to decide freely and for herself whether to become pregnant, when to become pregnant and how many children to have.

On 11 July 2017, the UK Secretary of State for International Development, The Rt Hon Priti Patel MP, will co-host an international summit on family planning in London with Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director of UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, and Melinda Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. This landmark event will bring together governments, the United Nations, foundations, the private sector and civil society to galvanize progress to 2020 and strengthen the foundations for universal access to sexual and reproductive health, including family planning, by 2030, a vision set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Family planning progress is happening thanks to the leadership of governments, civil society, the private sector and a growing network of partners around the world. This summit

aims to support the action and leadership by countries and their efforts to ensure that women and girls are empowered to thrive. The event will complement the aims of the *She Decides* initiative launched by European partners earlier this year and the African Union's Year of the Demographic Dividend, which emphasizes access to modern contraception as one of Africa's development objectives.

We've learned a lot from the progress we've made about what it takes to reach women and girls with what they want and need. At the summit and beyond, we're going to hone in on these proven solutions, broadening and deepening our network of partners – including the private sector – to deliver progress and bring these solutions to scale. By doing this we will continue to transform the lives of women and girls, their families and communities, in the poorest countries.

Together with country partners, we will focus on four areas:

- **Innovative financing solutions, especially for commodities:** We'll explore innovative financing models to make sure that donor and country resources go the furthest they can and ensure sufficient and timely availability of quality contraceptive options around the world. We want to make sure that partners can buy a range of high-quality contraceptives regularly and consistently and to expand the range of affordable contraceptive methods available to women and girls.
- **Strengthening supply chains and expanding the range of contraceptives available to women:** We'll explore new partnerships, bringing on board the expertise of private-sector logistics experts to improve supply chains and ensure that no woman is left empty-handed. We'll work with countries to expand the range of contraceptives available so that women can choose a method that best meets their needs.
- **Empowering young people to thrive:** We'll partner with countries to shift policies and make financial commitments to increase voluntary contraceptive access and uptake among young people. We will do this because there are 1.8 billion adolescents in the world and we cannot achieve universal access to family planning unless we address the unique needs of this critical demographic.
- **Reaching the hardest to reach:** We will work to make sure that women experiencing humanitarian crises or facing other socio-cultural barriers can access the contraceptive services and supplies that they need to protect their health.

Everyone has a role to play. The 2012 summit established a platform for global collaboration where partners can share experiences of impact and innovation and solve problems together. At the 2017 summit, we're going to work side-by-side with country partners to build on these lessons and further sharpen our approach to reach women and girls with what they urgently want and need. Only by working together more closely than ever can we deliver what is required to transform the lives of women and girls and contribute to a healthier, more stable and more prosperous future for all.