



# No woman left behind in the fight against NCDs: Towards health services that address breast and cervical cancer

A side event of the 44th Session of the UN ECOSOC Commission on Population and Development

Wednesday  
13 April 2011  
1:15 - 2:45 pm  
Conference  
Room 1, North  
Lawn Building



## OBJECTIVES

- Launch the Cervical Cancer Action Report on the Progress in Cervical Cancer Prevention
- Review the burden of these diseases in Africa and present the initiative of the First Ladies Forum
- Highlight available cost-effective interventions and demonstrate the feasibility of strengthened health systems
- Highlight the impact on individuals and households

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) – cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and chronic respiratory disease - represent a global health, economic and development issue. Their impact on women deepens health and gender inequities between, and within, countries and has a profound effect on individuals, households, and communities. Women worldwide are affected by and at risk for mortality from cancers that are largely preventable and treatable, including cervical and breast cancer. Cervical cancer is central to the emerging cancer pandemic in low and middle income countries. The number of lives lost to this preventable disease is a global failure of the largest scale, given all we know about preventing, detecting and treating cervical cancer. At the same time, the evidence for preventing breast cancer mortality makes this a similar avoidable catastrophe, and innovative approaches exist for screening and treatment in low resource settings. Prevention, early detection, treatment and palliative care can be integrated into existing health services to relieve the strain in lower- and middle-income countries and to make sure that all women and girls have a fair chance at full and healthy lives.

Addressing women's cancers is relevant to the Commission on Population and Development's 44th Session, focused on "Fertility, reproductive health and development." This side event will shine a light on global best practices in breast and cervical cancer control and contribute to building momentum for the September 2011 United Nations High Level Meeting on Non-communicable diseases.

Co-Sponsored by: Permanent Mission of the Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Permanent Mission of the Republic of Malawi, PAHO and UNFPA



In collaboration with: American Cancer Society, PATH, Forum of African First Ladies against Breast and Cervical Cancer



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**Moderator: Dr Karen Sealey**, PAHO/WHO Special Advisor

- **Opening remarks**

**H.E. Ms Paulette Bethel**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas to the United Nations, Chair of CARICOM

- **Global situation of women's cancers: Challenges of prevention and control**

**Ms Purnima Mane**, Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA

- **Forum of African First Ladies against Breast and Cervical Cancer**

**Madam Callista Mutharika**, First Lady of the Republic of Malawi, Incoming Vice Chairperson, Forum of African First Ladies against Breast and Cervical Cancer

- **The importance of the cancer survivor**

**Ms Clover Allen Wilson**, Breast Cancer Survivor

- **Launch of the Cervical Cancer Action report card**

**Mr. Scott Wittet**, PATH

- **Q&A interactive discussion**

- **Closure**

**H.E. Mr. Brian Bowler**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Malawi to the United Nations



Please **RSVP** with your name, organization, title and email to [cristina.parsonsperez@cancer.org](mailto:cristina.parsonsperez@cancer.org).

**RSVPs must be received by 5pm on the 7th of April to ensure UN access**