

## LEVERAGING MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT BANK (MDB) FUNDS FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & HIV/AIDS

### Advocacy Campaign Statement

#### **Advocacy Campaign to Increase and Improve MDB Funds for Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS**

Gender Action invites your organization to become a member of a dynamic advocacy campaign to pressure Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) - the world's largest public lenders - to increase and improve their spending on reproductive health and HIV/AIDS, as well as remove their loan conditionalities which impede progress toward achieving the reproductive health and HIV/AIDS goals set in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

#### **The MDB Funding Challenge**

In 2007 Gender Action published a report, *Mapping Multilateral Development Banks' Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS Spending*, which revealed that despite their promises to support reproductive health and combat HIV/AIDS, only a tiny fraction of total MDB spending addresses reproductive health and HIV/AIDS. We also found that most MDB investments in reproductive health and HIV/AIDS lack gender sensitivity despite the critical importance of addressing gender roles in reproductive health and HIV/AIDS programs. In addition, MDB policies and practices undermine meeting their MDG reproductive health and HIV/AIDS commitments. Health sector privatization and user fees, for example, make reproductive health and HIV/AIDS services unaffordable to the poor.

#### **A Project with a Campaign to Close the Funding Gap**

Gender Action has embarked on a project to increase and improve MDB investments in reproductive health and HIV/AIDS. The goal is to increase the number of poor women, men, boys, and girls with access to high quality family planning, reproductive health, and related HIV/AIDS services in the global South to which MDBs contribute funding. This goal can be realized by achieving the following objectives:

1. *Increase MDB funding for reproductive health and HIV/AIDS services;*
2. *Improve the quality of MDB reproductive health and HIV/AIDS projects through gender integration; and*
3. *End MDB harmful policy conditionalities.*

The project will generate three much-needed deliverables:

1. *An in-depth report presenting the MDBs' role in reproductive health and HIV/AIDS services to inform advocacy, especially focusing on the World Bank but also investigating the Inter American Development Bank, the African Development Bank, and the Asian Development Bank;*
2. *A toolkit for advocacy to help guide and inform advocacy campaign; and*
3. *A dynamic advocacy campaign.*

The advocacy campaign will entail:

1. *Increasing literacy on MDBs within international and southern-based reproductive health and sexual rights and other women's groups;*
2. *Developing and strengthening partnerships between IFI-watcher coalitions and women's rights coalitions to fortify campaign effectiveness; and*

3. *Holding MDBs accountable on their promises to promote gender equality and women's empowerment and pressuring donor governments to do the same.*

Gender Action will establish an online listserv to facilitate communication for advocacy. The forum will be used for exchanging ideas and suggestions regarding campaign strategies, joint advocacy, capacity building, and research; deciding collectively on mechanisms through which organizations will work in collaboration with each other; and sharing documents and new developments relating to MDB funding for reproductive health and HIV/AIDS.

### **Benefits for Your Organization**

By joining this campaign your organization will:

1. Gain information that may benefit your own projects, particularly those focusing on improving reproductive health care and HIV/AIDS services in the poorest communities of the world.
2. Strengthen partnerships and build the capacity needed to persuade MDBs to promote gender equality in all their reproductive health and HIV/AIDS investments.
3. Contribute to increasing and improving MDB spending on reproductive health and HIV/AIDS.

### **Please Respond by Email with the Following Information**

If your organization wishes to become a member of this campaign, kindly sign onto this statement and submit to [info@genderaction.org](mailto:info@genderaction.org).

Joining this Campaign gives Gender Action permission to send your organization campaign information and updates and contact your organization regarding campaign activities.

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### **My Organization would like to join this Campaign!**

**Name of Organization:**

**Contact Person:**

**Email:**

**Date:**