Women Deliver’s 4th Global Conference, taking place 16-19 May 2016, will be the largest gathering on girls’ and women’s health and rights in the last decade and one of the first major global conferences following the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The focus of the conference will be on how to implement the SDGs so they matter most for girls and women, with a specific focus on health— in particular maternal, sexual, and reproductive health and rights— and on gender equality, education, environment, and economic empowerment.

Building on the successes of Women Deliver’s three previous global gatherings (London 2007, Washington 2010 and Kuala Lumpur 2013), the 2016 Conference will bring together world leaders, advocates, policymakers, journalists, young people, researchers and leaders of the private sector and civil society to showcase what it means and how it works when women and girls become the focus of development efforts. Speakers and participants from across the globe will offer their perspectives, research and lessons learned as the world steps beyond the Millennium Development Goals, many of which will remain unfinished and begins work under a new development framework.

At Women Deliver conferences attendees have unprecedented access to the best available information and ideas to tackle the toughest issues of our time and to the people who are the change-makers. The conferences are known for their diversity in the people and organizations that attend, the number of high-level officials they attract and their unique global advocacy platform.

Parliamentarians’ Forum, 17-19 May 2016
Members of Parliaments will play a central role in advancing the SDGs, improving the lives of women and girls in their home countries and abroad. Therefore, the European Parliamentary Forum (EPF) on Population and Development aims to bring together around 50 Parliamentarians from around the world in a Parliamentarians’ Forum during the Fourth Women Deliver Conference. The Parliamentarians’ Forum will be an excellent opportunity for young and motivated parliamentarians to meet with well-known champion MPs in advancing SRHR at regional, national and global level.

The Forum aims to enable a productive and structured dialogue on the successes, challenges and obstacles in advancing women’s and girls’ health and rights and delivering solutions for their advancement on a global scale. The Parliamentarians’ Forum will enable participants to focus in-depth on the most critical issues surrounding the rights, health, empowerment and well-being of women and girls, to develop strategies and sharpen programs that improve these aspects.

Participants & Language of the Conference
Around 50 Members of Parliaments from Europe, Asia, Americas, Africa and the Arab region, are expected to attend the Women Deliver Parliamentarians’ Forum. Only invited participants, speakers and organisers will have access to the Parliamentarians’ Forum. The working language of the conference will be English. Official interpretation will be provided in French and Spanish.

Outcome
As an immediate activity outcome we envisage a greater understanding of SDG3 (“Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”), and SDG5 (“Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”). Under those two goals, a number of targets call for ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health, including for family planning, reducing global maternal mortality, eliminating violence against women and girls, harmful practices like child marriage and female genital mutilation, and ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls. The 3-day parliamentarians’ meeting will include several thematic sessions followed by open discussions. There will also be time for networking and informal discussions amongst parliamentarians.

For more information please visit http://wd2016.org/
About Women Deliver

As a leading, global advocate for girls and women’s health, rights and wellbeing, Women Deliver brings together diverse voices and interests to drive progress in maternal, sexual, and reproductive health and rights. Women Deliver builds capacity, shares solutions, and forges partnerships, together creating coalitions, communication, and action that spark political commitment and investment in girls and women.

About EPF and the sister regional networks

The European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development is a network of members of parliaments from across Europe who are committed to protecting the sexual and reproductive health of the world’s most vulnerable people, both at home and overseas. EPF believes that women should always have the right to decide upon the number of children they wish to have, and should never be denied the education or other means to achieve this that they are entitled to.


The Parliamentarians’ Forum at Women Deliver will be made possible thanks to the generous support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).