

**TICAD VI SPOUSES PROGRAMME**  
**Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI)**  
**August 27, 2016, Nairobi, Kenya**

**Call to Action to Invest in Maternal and Child Health for Social Transformation in Africa**

We, the First Ladies of Africa and Japan, meeting on 27 August 2016 in Nairobi Kenya at the sidelines of Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI), commit to champion the fight against HIV and cancer as a way of improving the health of women and children as well as saving lives.

Every day, approximately 830 women die from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. More than half of these deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa. 5.9 million children under age five died in 2015, 16 000 every day. Women and girls continue to be disproportionately affected by HIV. In the most affected countries, girls account for more than 80 percent of all new HIV infections among adolescents; 7,000 girls aged 15-24 are infected with HIV every week. The disease is the leading cause of death for women aged 15-44 worldwide. At the same time, African countries are recording high cases of cervical and breast cancer among women. Cancers such as Leukemia and primary brain malignancies increase the risk of death of mothers and children under five.

**Our Call to Action**

1. We, the First Ladies of Africa and Japan, commit to advocate for the acceleration of reduction of preventable maternal deaths. No woman should die while giving life.
2. We, the First Ladies of Africa and Japan, commit to support government efforts to promote the reproductive health in order to achieve the highest attainable quality of life.
3. We, the First Ladies of Africa and Japan ,commit to advocate for access to HIV prevention, care and treatment services for all pregnant women and children on the continent so as to end new HIV infections in children and keep mothers alive.
4. We, the First Ladies of Africa and Japan, commit to support the fight against structural and cultural barriers that continue to predispose women and children to diseases. We also commit to continue to advocate for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.
5. We, the First Ladies of Africa and Japan, further commit to the realization of sustainable development goals, in particular on advocacy efforts in improving the health of African women and children.
6. We, the First Ladies of Africa and Japan, call on all partners to increase their investments in maternal and child health, including non-communicable diseases across the African continent.

7. In conclusion, we, the First Ladies of Africa, call on African governments to continue to progressively increase resources to the health sector towards the realization of Abuja Declaration of 2001 in which African governments committed to invest 15 percent of their annual budgets to health. Such investments will not only help fight diseases such as HIV and cancer but will also build strong and resilient health systems that will save many lives and build thriving economies.