



Jessica Malter, Women Deliver  
[jmalter@womendeliver.org](mailto:jmalter@womendeliver.org)

Guy Bloembergen, Global Health Strategies  
[gbloembergen@globalhealthstrategies.com](mailto:gbloembergen@globalhealthstrategies.com)

## **International Women's Day Marks Official Countdown to Women Deliver 2016 Conference**

*Global conference to spotlight solutions to toughest challenges facing girls and women*

*New speakers announced, virtual conference now open for registrants*

**8 March 2016, New York** – This International Women's Day, Women Deliver is calling on global leaders – across sectors, regions and generations – to take action and accelerate universal gender parity, the official theme of this year's campaign. The upcoming Women Deliver 2016 Conference, taking place in Copenhagen, Denmark from 16-19 May, will build on the day's themes and emphasize solutions, impact and action to advance the health, rights and wellbeing of girls and women.

"We must strive to create a world where girls and women have choice, not chance," said Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Mary of Denmark, Patron of the Women Deliver 2016 Conference. "A world where a woman can decide for herself if, when and with whom to have a baby; a world where she does not risk unnecessarily dying in childbirth; and where she is economically empowered and financially literate."

At the conference, more than 200 plenaries, concurrent sessions and side events will focus on solutions and *how* we can achieve the biggest impact for girls and women by emphasizing health, rights, gender equality, education and economic empowerment. When girls and women are healthy and have a chance to learn and earn there are also positive ripple effects across development – families are healthier, communities are stronger and nations are more prosperous.

"I am both very proud and excited that Denmark is hosting the Women Deliver 2016 Conference," said Danish Minister for Foreign Affairs Kristian Jensen. "Investing in girls and women is crucial for a sustainable future for all. It is my hope that the Conference will help put concrete action behind the new Sustainable Development Goals in order to create real improvements for girls' and women's health and rights."

More than 5,000 global and local leaders, policymakers, researchers, private sector, NGO representatives and young people from 150 countries are expected to participate in the Women Deliver 2016 Conference. Confirmed speakers include:

- **Amina J. Mohammed**, Minister of the Environment, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- **Annie Lennox**, Singer, Songwriter, Political Activist and Philanthropist
- **Cecile Richards**, President, Planned Parenthood Federation of America & Planned Parenthood Action Fund
- **Chamki**, Muppet from Galli Galli Sim Sim, Sesame Street India
- **Jessica Biel**, Actor; Ambassador for WomanCare Global's "If You Don't Tell Them, Then Who Will?" Campaign

- **Tawakkol Karman**, Nobel Peace Laureate; Founder & Chairwoman, Women Journalists Without Chains
- **Yvonne Chaka Chaka**, Performing Artist; Founder, Princess of Africa Foundation; Goodwill Ambassador, UNICEF & Roll-Back Malaria
- **And multiple heads of UN Agencies**, including UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women and WHO

“The Women Deliver 2016 Conference is all about building courage, strength and innovative spirit to drive development with the understanding that solutions works best with girls and women at the heart,” said Women Deliver CEO Katja Iversen.

The Conference will also feature several special events, including an Appy Hour, Arts and Cinema Corner, Speakers’ Corner, Career Fair and Social Enterprise Challenge. Additionally, for the first time, the Women Deliver 2016 Conference will have an online counterpart, *Women Deliver Live*, which will allow virtual participants to access plenaries, high-level talks, press conferences and VIP roundtables.

Women Deliver 2016 Conference registration is now open. Registration for *Women Deliver Live* can be found here. Members of the media are invited to apply for press accreditation to register for the conference at no cost.

To receive the latest updates on Conference speakers, schedules, and events, subscribe to our newsletter and follow Women Deliver on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

**WHAT:** Women Deliver 2016 Conference

**WHEN:** 16-19 May 2016

**WHERE:** Bella Center, Copenhagen, Denmark

**SOCIAL:** Join the conversation by following #WD2016

**WEB:** www.wd2016.org

**CONFIRMED SPEAKERS:** Access the full list of high-level speakers here.

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**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, particularly in maternal, sexual, and reproductive health and rights. It builds capacity, shares solutions, and forges partnerships, together creating coalitions, communication, and action that spark political commitment and investment in girls and women.

Women Deliver believes that when the world invests in girls and women, everybody wins.