**70th UNGA**

**OAFLA High Level Roundtable Event**

**On**

**‘OAFLA: Building on MDG’s to invest in the Post 2015 Development Agenda’**

**28 September 2015 08h45 – 12h15**

**The Pierre Hotel, New York**

Concept Note

**Introduction**

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) provides a strategic platform for the Organization of African First Ladies Against HIV/AIDS (OAFLA) by enabling the organization to enhance its visibility with member states, donors and partners, mainly to establish new strategic platforms for development and advocacy on issues related to its mandate. Indeed, organizing a high level event during this period, when world leaders, first ladies, major donors and heads of UN agencies convene in New York to discuss key strategic issues related to the global agenda, provides a unique opportunity for OAFLA to gain momentum and bring new partners and donors on board on important issues including HIV and AIDS, maternal and child health and cervical and breast cancer. Furthermore, it also provides OAFLA members, mainly first ladies, with the opportunity to anticipate on the implementation of the Post 2015 Development Agenda and to continue to address the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG’s) both in terms of advocacy and program delivery. Building on the successful outcome of last year’s high level event, co-hosted by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), on ‘Investing in Adolescent Girls for Africa’s Development,’ the African first ladies have decided to organize this year a high level event on ‘OAFLA: Building on MDG’s to invest in the Post 2015 Development Agenda.’ The high level event will take place on 28 September in New York and will be co-hosted by the Fashion for Development Initiative (F4D) with the support of UNFPA, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the International Planned Parenthood Federation Africa Region (IPPFAR) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB) and Malaria. The high level event will bring together first ladies, major donors, UN agencies, international celebrities and artists.

**Objective**

The high level event would be focused on the theme ‘OAFLA: Building on MDG’s to invest in the Post 2015 Development Agenda’ thereby creating an opportunity for OAFLA members to reflect on their contributions towards global efforts in reducing maternal and child mortality and preventing the transmission of HIV from mother to child. It would also present an opportunity to discuss the future role of OAFLA in maintaining the momentum of its efforts to invest in adolescent girls, reduce maternal and child mortality and prevent mother to child HIV transmissions in the context of implementing the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s) in the framework of the Post 2015 Development Agenda, which would be adopted during the 70th UNGA. Furthermore, the high level event would provide an opportunity to build linkages between OAFLA’s Strategic Plan 2014-2018, the organization’s adopted guiding document for all programmatic work, and global efforts towards the implementation of SDG’s.

**Program**

The format of the high level event would include two simultaneous roundtables and a working luncheon. Roundtable one would focus on ‘Strengthening initiatives and partnerships for the treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS for adolescents and youth.’ Roundtable two would focus on ‘Investing in women’s and adolescents’ health in a Post 2015 Development Framework.’ Both roundtables would be led by OAFLA members that are active on the respective themes along with selected relevant partners. A summary of both roundtable discussions will be shared on completion.

**Luncheon**

The working luncheon for First Ladies, led by F4D, is a high level event which will unite first ladies, diplomats, fashion VIP’s and other key influencers from around the globe to recognize to celebrate the unprecedented cooperation between diplomacy and fashion for the greater good of women and children worldwide. The working luncheon will include: A red carpet, cocktail reception, fashion runway show, exhibits of art and fashion and a seated VIP luncheon

**Outcomes**

The following outcomes are expected from the high level event:

* International partners, donors and media would have a more comprehensive understanding of OAFLA’s contribution to Africa’s produced results towards relevant MDGs
* OAFLA members would have a more focused understanding of what is expected of them in the context of the implementation of the Post 2015 Development Agenda
* OAFLA members’ contributions and experiences would be shared on a global platform, thereby enhancing the global reach of the organization, helping to establish new partnerships as well as strengthen existing partnerships based on mutually strategic areas of collaboration
* A communiqué will be adopted for advocacy in the framework of the Post 2015 Development Agenda

**About Co-Organizers and Partners**

**OAFLA:** As the largest global network of First Ladies, OAFLA advocates for issues which ensure the improvement of the lives of women and children in their countries. The high level roundtable is led by OAFLA in collaboration with partners

**F4D:** To support its goals of creating positive social change, particularly towards women and children worldwide, F4D will be partnering with Franca Sozzani, Editor-in-Chief of Vogue Italia and F4D Goodwill Ambassador, Coumba Toure, Founder and President of The Advanced Development for Africa Foundation and Madame Ban Soon-taek, spouse of the United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, and patron of the annual high-level event. African first ladies have been actively supporting the F4D event for the past five (5) years and this will mark the first time that OAFLA collaborate as a co-organizer

**UNFPA:** As the lead UN agency for delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every

birth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled, UNFPA expands the possibilities for women and young people to lead healthy and productive lives. As a long time OAFLA partner with strong ties to the secretariat, UNFPA stands as a key partner in many collaborative activities with the first ladies, including the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA). .

**UNAIDS:** As the main advocate for accelerated, comprehensive and coordinated global action on the [HIV](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HIV)/[AIDS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AIDS) epidemic, the mission of UNAIDS is to lead, strengthen and support an expanded response to HIV and AIDS and to prevent the HIV/AIDS epidemic from becoming a severe pandemic. As OAFLA’s founding partner, UNAIDS is active with OAFLA members on the ground as they implement their Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) and other HIV activities and maintains strong ties to the OAFLA secretariat.

**IPPFAR:** As the leading non-government Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) service delivery organization in Africa and the leading SRHR advocacy voice in the region, IPPFAR’s goal is to increase access to SRHR services and support for sub-Saharan Africa’s most vulnerable men, women and youth. IPPFAR is a formal partner of OAFLA with many ongoing activities on both the regional and international levels

**Global Fund:** The Global Fund is accelerating the global mission to eradicate AIDS, TB and malaria as epidemics as it works as a partner of governments, civil societies, the private sector and those personally affected by the diseases. The Global Fund is an ongoing supporter and participant of OAFLA sponsored initiatives and activities