

FINAL

Opening Welcome (videotaped message)
William H. Gates Sr.
Co-Chair, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

(Welcome precedes the Opening Remarks by the First Lady of Uganda,
Bill Gates Sr will be introduced by Jose (Oying) Rimon, Global Health Policy and Advocacy)

International Conference on Family Planning:
Research and Best Practices
November 15, 2009
Kampala, Uganda

Hello, I'm Bill Gates Sr. I am honored to welcome you to the International Conference on Family Planning—and I wish I could be there with you in Kampala.

The issues you will be addressing over the next few days are among the most important in our world today. Bill, Melinda and I believe that universal access to family planning and reproductive health is essential to a better future. Men and women should be able to choose freely the number and timing of their children. That is why they have insisted from the very beginning that the Gates Foundation have a strong focus on family planning and reproductive health.

And this conference marks a big step forward for the field. You are among more than 1,200 individuals representing more than 50 institutions who are collaborating to improve the health of mothers, newborns, families, and **whole communities**. I am confident that the relationships you will forge—and the knowledge you will share—will be invaluable to you when you return home and get back to work.

At the Gates Foundation, we are excited to help you do this work; that is our commitment to you. But it is **your leadership that matters the most**. You have the power to help millions of people live healthier, more productive lives.

On behalf of Bill and Melinda, I'd like to congratulate you and thank you for the contributions you have already made. Please accept our best wishes for a very successful conference.