

## #SHE DECIDES

### BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

2<sup>nd</sup> OF MARCH 2017, 9.30 am – 1pm

The Ministerial Conference SHE DECIDES is hosted by Alexander De Croo, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Development Cooperation of Belgium and co-organized with Lilianne Ploumen, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Netherlands, Isabella Lövin, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate of Sweden and Ulla Tørnæs, Minister for Development Cooperation of Denmark in support of the Global Fundraising Initiative SHE DECIDES.

SHE DECIDES is a strong statement in support of women's human rights, in particular their sexual and reproductive health and rights, focusing on how to enable every woman to decide for herself, freely, whether, when and how many children she wants to have. These are human rights with very important implications for every woman's and girl's own health, socio-economic situation and personal development.

Especially for girls it is important that – before starting a family – they have the chance to go to school, finish education and acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to stand up for themselves, take care of themselves and fully participate in society.

Women who have the opportunity to decide for themselves will have healthier and better educated children. This is clearly recognized in the Agenda 2030 in SDG3 to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages and SDG5 that aims to achieve gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls.

The international conference SHE DECIDES in Brussels is both an advocacy and a fundraising event. The aim is to join forces and rally financial support for those non-governmental organizations and UN agencies that make sexual and reproductive health and rights a reality for millions of women and girls by providing access to counseling, evidence based information, non-discriminatory comprehensive sexuality education, family planning, modern contraceptives, safe delivery, HIV testing and safe abortion care. They support governments in providing good quality health-care services, including maternal care and neonatal services.

The sexual and reproductive health and rights organizations will have the opportunity to explain their work. Women will testify about the crucial impact this work has on their lives. Ministers of Health, Women's Rights and Development Cooperation, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, foundations and private companies will express their political and/or financial support, with the ambition to mitigate the impact of recent decreased funding for family planning.

So far Canada, Cape Verde, Estonia, Finland and Luxemburg have already joined the initiative. Several others from all regions of the world have expressed interest and we hope many more will follow.

More information on the initiative and possible ways to contribute on [www.shedecides.com](http://www.shedecides.com).