

Fédération Internationale de
Gynécologie et d'Obstétrique

International Federation of
Gynecology and Obstetrics



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To Cervical Cancer Action:

The International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) is submitting this letter to express our Federation's strong support for rapid global access to comprehensive programmes to protect girls and women from cervical cancer.

This terrible disease which causes so much pain and suffering hits the low resource countries particularly hard. Approximately 85 % of cervical cancer deaths occur in low resource countries and these deaths can tear the fabric of the family and put additional pressure on scarce, local resources. In some places it is common for these women to be caretakers of children left orphaned by HIV and other diseases. Many deaths resulting from cervical cancer could be avoided if all girls and women were given timely access to improved screening and treatment, along with the possibility of future vaccination.

We share your commitment that access to new technologies should follow disease not wealth. It is crucial that the costs of HPV vaccine and new screening technologies be reduced and access increased as quickly as possible. We stand ready to work in partnership with the global community to make these tools available appropriately and effectively to the girls and women who need them most.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Shaw".

Dorothy Shaw
President