

She Decides.



Government Offices of Sweden



**« FREE TO DECIDE, FREE TO CHOOSE »
HOW TO GUARANTEE UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO SEXUAL AND
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS, AS AN ESSENTIAL
CONDITION FOR THE EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS**

Wednesday 13 March 2019, 11.30-12.45

Conference room CR11, United Nations building

Side event to the CSW 63 sponsored by Sweden and France

Organized by the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF),
Planning Familial (France) and the She Decides movement
with the support of the French and Swedish Coordination
of the European Women's Lobby and the Jean Jaurès Foundation

Objective

**How do social protection and public health systems better guarantee
and protect sexual and reproductive rights around the world, particularly
in countries in economic and social transition?**

Prospective speakers

- Ms. Marlène SCHIAPPA, Minister of State for Gender Equality and the Fight against Discrimination, France
- Ms. Åsa LINDHAGEN, Minister for Gender Equality, Sweden
- Ms. Hélène ILBOUDO-MARSHAL, Minister for Women, National Solidarity and Family, Burkina Faso
- Ms. Lorence KABASELE BIRUNGI, SheDecides, Democratic Republic of Congo
- Ms. Alice ACKERMANN, Youth Sexual Awareness For Europe (YSAFE), France
- Ms. Pamela MARTIN-GARCIA, « Campaña Nacional por el Derecho al Aborto Legal, Seguro y Gratuito », Argentina
- Ms. Clara BERGLUND, The Swedish Women's Lobby

Expert speakers and panellists will present their perspectives about :

- Challenges and good practices to ensure and protect sexual and reproductive health and rights;
- The link between a human rights-based approach to social protection and full access to sexual and reproductive rights;
- The challenges of sexuality education and access to accurate and relevant information;
- How innovative healthcare systems ensure access to choice and sexual health services “closest to women”;
- The legal and social framework and legislative developments for secure and decriminalized access to abortion.

Context

The global SheDecides campaign was launched at the end of January 2017 by the Netherlands, and was quickly joined by more than 50 countries and many organizations, in response to the decision of the new U.S. administration to suspend all financial aid to foreign NGOs that act, advocate or only provide information on abortion.

The aim is to compensate as much as possible for the negative consequences of the interruption of funding for international NGOs supporting abortion. At the same time, the SheDecides movement recalled that the prohibition or penalization of abortion does not lead to fewer abortions, but to more irresponsible practices in clandestine places and more maternal mortality.

Sexual rights are a component of human rights, which contribute to the freedom, equality and dignity of every woman and man on this planet. They are among the Sustainable Development Objectives (SDGs), both as a fundamental right to choose one's partner, to choose if, when and how many children one wants, and to do so, to have access to the necessary information and services of contraception and abortion, adapted to young people, as well as to comprehensive sexuality education.

In order to achieve the best possible state of health, everyone must be able to make a choice in their sexual and reproductive life and feel confident and secure in expressing their sexual orientation or gender identity without fear or coercion. There can be no reflection on population development without integrating this approach. It is important to highlight the progress made in this area since the Cairo (1994) and Beijing (1995) Conferences, as well as those that remain to be achieved in order for these advances to be universal.

But today, discrimination, stigmatization, fear and violence are real threats for many. Access to these rights is always and still is a problem for young people, girls and boys, women and people with vulnerabilities, especially migrant women, disabled people...: lack of reception centres and closures of health care facilities, lack of health professionals and social workers, lack of supply of contraceptives and materials, family, cultural and religious pressures. These threats prevent many people from enjoying their sexual health and rights.

France and Sweden have mobilized alongside the IPPF to support the SheDecides movement. Access to sexual and reproductive rights and health for women and girls is a fundamental part of their feminist diplomacy. Sweden and France have committed themselves, together with their allies and willing partners, to do everything possible to guarantee free and protected access to these rights for all women and young people in Europe and throughout the world.