

**STATEMENT ON NORPLANT, ANTI-PREGNANCY VACCINES AND RU486,
PRESENTED AT THE 6TH IWHM, 3-9 NOVEMBER 1990, QUEZON CITY,
PHILIPPINES.**

We, women from different parts of the world attending the 6th International Women and Health Meeting, 1990, state that we are opposed to trials and introduction of Norplant, anti-pregnancy vaccines and RU486.

Norplant, a long acting hormonal contraceptive, developed and promoted by Population Council, has been introduced in many countries of the world, particularly in those countries which have coercive population control programmes. Through experiences and research it has been established that the six-capsule implant (Norplant) is harmful, has potential long-term risks for women and children they bear, and that it takes control of our fertility out of our hands.

Anti-pregnancy vaccines, as developed by WHO and Population Council and also by Dr Talwar of India and some other institutes in other parts of the world is a cause of grave concern for all of us. Because it may cause irreversible effects, one of which could be permanent sterility, and cross reactions with other hormones; there is no animal model to assess it's safety and it's possible side-effects on the newborn are unknown.

RU486 is an anti-progesterone abortion pill developed and marketed by Roussel-Vilaf promoted by Population Council and WHO in some countries. This abortion pill is not entirely effective without being combined with prostaglandins which might cause adverse effects on the entire

body. It needs strict medical monitoring and in some cases would require hospitalization. These fertility control drugs give rise to concerns because their long-term effects are not yet adequately known, and are generally introduced through coercive population control programs on underprivileged and malnourished women who have little access to any health care. Our demand is that the money and resources that go into the development and promotion of these fertility control drugs be put into development and provision of barrier methods and other safe methods over which women have control.

We urge upon organisations like WHO, UNFPA, Population Council, IPPF and other similar organisations to take urgent actions to stop trials and introduction of Norplant, anti-pregnancy vaccines and RU486 and undertake effective measures to promote safe contraceptives. We call upon national governments and ministries of health to take similar steps.

Let's not wait until the next International Women and Health Meeting to pass resolutions on the same fertility control methods. It is a very urgent task to see that even more women do not have to suffer the negative consequences of methods like Norplant, anti-pregnancy vaccines and RU486. We call on women to see that these demands are implemented by their respective governments and concerned international organisations.

Let's unite in taking back the control of our bodies.