



## Sharjah Declaration on Cervical Cancer 3x3

We, representatives of governments, academics, International organizations and advocates, participating in 'Turning the Tide on HPV and Cervical Cancer: A forum to celebrate progress and boost the national and regional response to take action against cervical cancer', meeting in Sharjah on 31 January 2019, affirming our commitments to improving access to education, screenings, vaccines and treatment for HPV and cervical cancer in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, and in line with the World Health Organisation (WHO) call for action toward the elimination of cervical cancer, hereby make the following declaration.

We strongly pledge our commitment to the health and wellbeing of girls and women globally and the need to tackle the interconnected burdens of HPV and cervical cancer in the Arab region. We agree with the goal of the UN Joint Global Programme on Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control to build on the world's collective endeavours so that in a generation, death from cervical cancer ceases to be a public health issue. With 2019 marking 25 years since the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, a historic gathering that pushed for stronger commitment to sexual and reproductive health, we must renew both commitment and action on a global scale in order to address the unfinished ICPD agenda.

Cervical cancer is one of the most preventable and treatable forms of cancer, as long as it is detected early and managed effectively. Scaling up access to proper education and crucial preventive, testing and treatment tools is critical to a comprehensive approach to cervical cancer control. We must expand our efforts to achieve a region and world where no more women die because of cervical cancer by increasing coordinated action and political will.

Cervical cancer will be history if we:

1. Work **collaboratively** to introduce HPV vaccination to achieve high coverage among young people and vulnerable groups.
2. **Strengthen health services** to increase women's access to cervical cancer screening and treatment and ensure quality palliative care with financial risk protection; and
3. **Empower** individuals and communities through health literacy, education and social mobilisation programs.

We commit to:

1. **Advocate** for regional and national cervical cancer strategies which align with global initiatives;
2. Establish cooperative **capacity building** efforts to expand countries' and organisations' cervical cancer control activities; and
3. Work with **partners** to develop and implement innovative technologies for screening and pricing policies to stimulate increased vaccination and screening coverage.

We will act on this declaration in solidarity and coordination between governments, national and international organisations and all other stakeholders. Tackling cervical cancer will contribute to achieving Universal Health Coverage. The Arab region could be the first in the world to eliminate cervical cancer if we act now. Together we can turn the tide on HPV and cervical cancer, and achieve better health and wellbeing for all.