

**Remarks from U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission to Senegal Sandra Clark
At the National Launch of Bayer Family Planning Contraceptive: Microgynon Fe**

Terrou-Bi Hotel, February 25, 2016

(As prepared)

Monsieur le Directeur Général du Ministère de la Santé et de l'Action Sociale;
Monsieur le Directeur de Bayer Pharma AG;
Monsieur le Directeur de Bayer HealthCare de l'Afrique de l'Est et de l'Ouest;
Monsieur le Secrétaire General de l'Association Sénégalaise de Gynécologie-Obstétrique - ASGO;
Madame la Présidente de l'Association nationale des sages-femmes d'Etat du Sénégal - ANSFES;
Madame la pharmacienne titulaire de la Pharmacie République;
Mesdames, Messieurs,

I am delighted to be here today to help launch a new affordable family planning product for Senegal as part of a global partnership between Bayer Health Care and USAID.

Together we are introducing Microgynon Fe, a low-cost oral contraceptive available in nine countries in Africa, now including Senegal.

This unique partnership will provide new family planning products to women at an affordable price.

This partnership would not have been possible without the support of the Government of Senegal, particularly the Ministry of Health. Their commitment to increasing access to family planning services has demonstrated impressive results within just a few years and this new partnership will build on that success.

Higher incidence of properly spaced pregnancies in Senegal has led to healthier mothers and children, and parents better situated to provide a bright future for their children.

Investments in family planning help to lower maternal mortality rates, improve neonatal and child health, and ensure sustainable progress in health and development.

The private sector has an important role to play in contributing to all aspects of sustainable development, in this case, to ensure that Senegalese women have access to a high-quality and affordable family planning options.

We applaud Senegal's efforts to improve family planning security, and we thank Bayer for its commitment to making Microgynon Fe available over the long term in Senegal.

Investment by private sector companies like Bayer is part of a longer-term vision for increasing the availability of medicines such as family planning products as Africa's economy and population continue to grow.

As a committed development partner to this country, the United States government is pleased to play a role in helping Senegal to meet these objectives.

Thank you.