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IAAH 11th World Congress on Adolescent Health coming to India

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The biggest global event in adolescent health – The World Congress on Adolescent Health - is coming to India. Held once in every 4 years, the International Association for Adolescent Health's 11th World Congress on Adolescent Health, 'Investing in Adolescent Health – the Future is Now' will be held in New Delhi, India from 27-29 October 2017.

The world is home to 1.2 billion adolescents, and India has the largest population of adolescents in the world – 253 million1. This demographic makes India a potent host for a global conference on this theme.

The mortality of adolescents globally stands at staggering 1.3 million deaths per year. Unintended injuries such as road traffic accidents and drowning are the leading causes of death among adolescents, together with self-harm, interpersonal violence, communicable diseases and teenage pregnancy.

Tobacco, alcohol and other substance use contribute to health concerns among adolescents (e.g. injuries) and are associated with unemployment, accidents, depression and suicide during adolescence. Yet rather than a passing phase, these behaviours and states risk reverberating across the life-course, contributing to the future burden of disease in adults and to that of the next generation.

The agenda for Sustainable Development Goals 2030 and the new Global Strategy on Women's Children's and Adolescents' Health have brought adolescence to the centre-stage. These agendas recognize the opportunities and contribution of adolescence to achieving a wide array of global health priorities including improvements in communicable diseases (e.g. HIV) and non-communicable diseases, women's health, mental health, nutrition, and more.

The World Congress seeks to cover topical themes through discussions in sessions such as 'Global adolescent health: Opportunities and challenges', 'Programming for adolescent health in India: RKSK and beyond', 'Toward a gendered approach to adolescent health', 'Mental health and adolescents', and more.

The World Congress is organized under the supportive leadership of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India. MAMTA Health Institute for Mother and Child (MAMTA) is the lead organisation that is hosting the World Congress with a consortium of partners including Pathfinder International, Population Foundation of India (PFI), Population Services International (PSI), and The YP Foundation.

The World Congress also has scientific support from Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP), Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI), Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) and Trained Nurses Association of India (TNAI).

Dr. Sunil Mehra, Executive Director, MAMTA Health Institute for Mother and Child said, "Adolescents need to be at the centre of future investment in health and education for sustainable development."

Professor Susan Sawyer, President, International Association for Adolescent Health, says, "This meeting couldn't be better timed, as never has there been such global recognition of the importance of advancing the health and wellbeing of adolescents, including in India. IAAH is delighted that the 11th World Congress on Adolescent Health is in the country with the largest number of adolescents in the world. A groundswell of professionals, global partners and young people are coming to

Delhi from all over the world to share ideas, evidence and actions to advance adolescent health. The world is looking towards India and we are confident this World Congress will deliver."

The World Congress is anticipating around 800 international and national delegates including adolescent health experts from across the globe, academia, representatives from MoHFW - Government of India, national and global representatives of UN organizations, youth leaders from several countries including India who have made a difference in their communities, national and international NGOs, donor organizations, policy makers and corporates.