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**AFRICAN WOMEN'S HIV PREVENTION ADVOCATES CELEBRATE A HISTORIC 53% PRICE REDUCTION
IN THE DAPIVIRINE VAGINAL RING**

*The Population Council Announcement at ICASA 2025 Marks a Critical Step Toward Equitable Access
to Life-Saving Prevention Tools for Women and Girls*

ACCRA, Ghana: Four leading African women's health and HIV prevention organisations today celebrate the Population Council's announcement that the price of the monthly dapivirine vaginal ring will drop to \$5.90, representing a 53% reduction from current pricing. The announcement is being made at the 23rd International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA 2025) in Accra, Ghana.

The Advocates for the Prevention of HIV in Africa (APHA), African Women Prevention Community Accountability Board (AWPCAB), International Community of Women Living with HIV Eastern Africa (ICWEA), and WACI Health issue the following joint statement:

"This price reduction is a momentous step forward in ensuring that African women and girls can access the HIV prevention tools they need and deserve. Only when prevention medications and technologies become truly accessible will the lives of women and girls be safe from HIV. Today's announcement by the Population Council demonstrates what is possible when organisations prioritise people over profits."

The organisations emphasise that the new pricing makes the Dapivirine vaginal ring significantly more affordable and accessible for health programmes across sub-Saharan Africa, where women and girls bear a disproportionate burden of new HIV infections. In some regions, adolescent girls and young women face HIV infection rates more than three times higher than their male peers.

"African women have been integral contributors to the research and development of the Dapivirine ring through their participation in clinical trials and implementation studies they cannot and must not be prevented from accessing these life-saving tools through the artificial constructs of pricing strategies that place profits above public health imperatives."

The Dapivirine vaginal ring is a user-controlled, long-acting HIV prevention method that women insert monthly. When used consistently, the ring has demonstrated efficacy of between 75-91% as evidenced by sub-analysis data from phase III clinical trials.

The ring offers a critical prevention choice for women who may face challenges with daily oral PrEP or who prefer a discreet, woman-controlled method.

"While we celebrate this achievement, we must be clear: this is only the beginning, we call on all non - profit and for profit product developers of HIV prevention and treatment products

to follow the Population Council's example. If we are to meet the 2030 targets for ending AIDS as a public health threat, we must ensure that cost is never a barrier to accessing prevention tools."

This joint statement emphasises that equitable access to prevention technologies is not merely a matter of charity but of justice. "Women across Africa have contributed their bodies, their time, and their trust to the development of HIV prevention tools. They have the right to benefit from these innovations without delay and without exclusion based on ability to pay."

The organisations commit to continuing their advocacy for:

- Further price reductions across all HIV prevention and treatment products
- Increased domestic and international funding for procurement and distribution
- Removal of regulatory and policy barriers to rapid rollout
- Meaningful involvement of women and girls in all decisions affecting their health and access to prevention tools
- Accountability from pharmaceutical companies and global health actors in meeting equity commitments

"Today we celebrate, but tomorrow we continue the work. "Every woman and girl deserves access to the full range of HIV prevention options. We will not rest until this is a reality across the African continent and beyond."

ABOUT AWPCAB

African Women Prevention Community Accountability Board (AWPCAB) is a community-led accountability mechanism that ensures African women's voices, experiences, and priorities are central to HIV prevention research, policy, and programme implementation across the continent. AWPCAB membership comprises of 13 women from 7 African countries. The AWPCAB Secretariat is APHA, ICW EA and WACI Health.

Advocates for the Prevention of HIV in Africa (APHA) is an evidence-based, progressive human rights advocacy organisation at the forefront of HIV prevention efforts across the African continent. APHA contributes to national and regional leadership, increases research literacy, and mobilises the voices of civil society groups and other stakeholders in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

International Community of Women Living with HIV Eastern Africa (ICWEA) is a regional network of women living with HIV advocating for human rights, improved access to treatment and care, and the elimination of stigma and discrimination.

WACI Health is an Africa regional advocacy organization, which influences political priorities through an effective, evidence-driven Pan-African civil society voice and action. We champion the end of life-threatening epidemics, and improved health outcomes for all in Africa. WACI health's programmes prioritizes women's health, HIV prevention, TB and Malaria and health systems strengthening, with a focus on ensuring that health programmes are responsive to the needs and priorities of African women and girls.

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AWPCAB partner organizations

