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Merck's Frank Stangenberg-Haverkamp receives "African Alliances HE for SHE" award for women empowerment

- **Award to recognize 'Merck More than a Mother' Campaign's contribution to empower infertile women in Africa**

Cairo, Egypt – Merck, a leading science and technology company, has announced that Prof. Frank Stangenberg-Haverkamp, Chairman of Executive Board and Family Board of E. Merck KG was awarded the **"African Alliances HE for SHE"** award for Women Empowerment during the 11th African Congress for Women Entrepreneurs held in Egypt. The award is in recognition of Merck's efforts to empower women in the field of research and healthcare through the Merck Capacity Advancement Program and UNESCO–Merck Africa Research Summit. The award also recognizes Merck's significant contribution to empower infertile women in Africa through the 'Merck More than a Mother' campaign.

Receiving his award Prof. Stangenberg-Haverkamp said "I am very happy to receive this important award. The 'Merck More than a Mother' campaign is a very important initiative to empower an unprivileged segment of women in Africa. Women who suffer infertility have been neglected, mistreated and discriminated because they cannot bear children, while around 50% of infertility is caused by male factors and yet women are solely blamed for it."

Dr. Amany Asfur, President of African Alliances of Women Empowerment explained: "We are very proud to acknowledge Merck's efforts to empower infertile women in Africa by improving their access to information, awareness, health and change of mind set through their historic 'Merck More than a Mother' campaign."



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"A new program to empower African women and young researchers will be launched during UNESCO- Merck Africa Research Summit- MARS 2016. This program is very critical for Africa's future, and its social and economic development, which cannot be achieved except with the economic empowerment of women and youth," explained Rasha Kelej, Chief Social Officer of Merck Healthcare.

During the same congress, the African Women Empowerment Awards were granted to both H.E. Prof. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President of Liberia and H.E. Catherine Samba-Panza, Former President of Central African Republic.

A high level panel discussion of the 'Merck More Than a Mother' campaign was held during the first day of the congress. Hon. Sarah Opendi, Uganda's Minister of Health; Hon. Jean Kalilani, Malawi's Minister of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare; Hon. Julia Duncan-Cassell, Liberia's Minister of Gender and Social Affairs; Hon. Dr. Lanre Tejuoso, Chairman of Nigeria's Senate Committee on Health; Hon. Qedani Dorothy Mahlangu, Member of Executive Committee on Health, Gauteng Government, South Africa; and members of parliament and academics from Uganda, Kenya, Angola, Mozambique, Tanzania, Nigeria and Ivory Coast, were engaged in a discussion to define the campaign's objectives and interventions across Africa. A call of action and commitment were made to kick off the campaign in each participated country during 2016 and 2017.

The 'Merck More than a Mother' campaign has started an important project called 'Empowering Berna,' which seeks to help infertile women who cannot have children start their own businesses and build independent and happier lives.

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About Merck

Merck is a leading science and technology company in healthcare, life science and performance materials. Around 50,000 employees work to further develop technologies that improve and enhance life – from biopharmaceutical therapies to treat cancer or multiple sclerosis, cutting-edge systems for scientific research and production, to liquid crystals for smartphones and LCD televisions. In 2015, Merck generated sales of € 12.85 billion in 66 countries.

Founded in 1668, Merck is the world's oldest pharmaceutical and chemical company. The founding family remains the majority owner of the publicly listed corporate group. Merck, Darmstadt, Germany holds the global rights to the Merck name and brand. The only exceptions are the United States and Canada, where the company operates as EMD Serono, MilliporeSigma and EMD Performance Materials.

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About African Alliance for Women Empowerment

African Alliance for Women Empowerment was established in 2006 with focal points across Africa with the main objective of Empowering Women of Africa to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This is through economic, political and social empowerment of women.