

Speech by :Mr Peter Smith

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Mr. Chairman , distinguished delegates , NGO colleagues , ladies and gentlemen , thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

I would like to talk about maternal mortality , which is a major area of interest for the ICPD.

A brief history will help us to understand this problem a little better. A miraculous decline in maternal mortality began in England after 1935. In 1945 the maternal mortality rate was half what it had been ten years earlier. By 1950 , it was half what it had been in 1945. This coincided with the introduction of Prontosil in 1936 , the first successful drug to treat for bacterial infection. Soon after this sulphamide was introduced , later on penicillin was available. There was better treatment for high blood pressure , and haemorrhage post and ante partum. There was also an improvement in nutrition during this period. This amazing

