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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ICRW Statement on President Obama's Fiscal Year 2010 Budget**

Investments in women will make foreign assistance more effective

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**, Feb. 27, 2009 – *ICRW released the following statement from its president, Geeta Rao Gupta, on President Obama's proposed fiscal year 2010 budget, which calls for a 9.5 percent increase in spending on international affairs.*

"ICRW is pleased that President Obama's 2010 budget recognizes international development as vital to U.S. foreign policy. In these difficult economic times, it is crucial to ensure that every dollar in foreign assistance is spent in the smartest, most effective way possible. Our research proves that investments in women and girls have multiplier effects that create healthier, more economically vibrant communities.

As Congress moves forward with the President's budget blueprint, we stand ready to work with members of Congress, the Obama administration and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to improve the efficiency of U.S. development efforts by recognizing women's concrete impacts on their families, communities and national economies."

**ABOUT ICRW:** *The International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) is a leading Washington, D.C.-based international research organization with offices in India and Uganda that works to advance gender equality and human rights, fight poverty, and promote sustainable economic and social development for all. Learn more about ICRW and its work at [www.icrw.org](http://www.icrw.org).*