

Minister of International Development
and Minister for La Francophonie



Ministre du Développement international
et ministre de la Francophonie

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0G2

His Excellency Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
United Nations Plaza
New York, New York 10017
U.S.A.

Dear Secretary-General:

Thank you for your letter to Prime Minister Harper seeking support for the updated Global Strategy on Women's, Children's and Adolescent Health. Canada welcomes your continued leadership on this very important issue. Maternal, newborn and child health continues to be Canada's top development priority. Canada made a significant commitment at the Saving Every Woman, Every Child: Within Arm's Reach Summit in May 2014 and it is with great pleasure that I share with you today Canada's continued commitment to the Every Woman Every Child Global Strategy.

Canada is committed to working with Canadian and international partners toward the goal of ending the preventable deaths of mothers, newborns and children under the age of five. As part of this effort, Canada has committed \$3.5 billion to improve the health of mothers and children for the period of 2015-2020. Building on Canada's 2010-2015 Muskoka Initiative, this funding will continue to target the most effective ways to reduce maternal, newborn and child deaths by prioritizing three programmatic areas: strengthening of health systems, improving nutrition, and reducing the burden of leading diseases, as well as emphasizing strengthened accountability. This significant investment will allow Canada to tackle emerging challenges, including greater emphasis on better reaching children in the fragile first month of life, stepping up immunization efforts, enhancing efforts on nutrition and building civil registration and vital statistics systems to improve accountability for results and as a passport to a child's rights.

Canada wishes you a successful launch and we look forward to the continued success of the Every Woman Every Child movement as you continue to galvanize action and seek new innovative opportunities to ensure we assist countries to attain their health goals.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CP', representing Christian Paradis.

The Honourable Christian Paradis, P.C., M.P.

Canada