New York, 26 September 2015

Excellency,

In 2010, the launch of the Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health by the United Nations Secretary-General was a pivotal moment to accelerate the improvement of the health and well-being of women and children around the world.

While the momentum for progress and change for women and children has grown steadily in the Netherlands, progress is still required, building on the successes and lessons learned to complete the unfinished Millennium Development Goals’ agenda and further pursue our efforts for women, children and adolescents through the Sustainable Development Goals.

Therefore, I, the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands hereby reaffirm the support of our country to the Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health (2016-30) as a global effort to bring all stakeholders together in support of countries’ work to improve women’s, children’s and adolescents’ health and well-being.

We pledge to take the needed sustainable actions to end all preventable deaths of women, children, and adolescents within a generation and ensure their well-being and we hold ourselves accountable for our collective progress towards this goal.

We commit to:

- Prioritize sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Apply our Dutch added value: the Netherlands has low teen pregnancy and abortion rates and is a frontrunner in HIV prevention with pragmatic solutions such as needle exchange and regulation of sex work.
- Support 12 strategic civil society partnerships on sensitive issues concerning youth and sexual and reproductive rights, to the value of 290 million euros for the next 5 years, as an important additional contribution to the new Global Strategy on Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health.

Ms. Lilianne Ploumen
Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation

Secretary-General of the United Nations