Subject: - COMMITMENT OF GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN TO GLOBAL STRATEGY ON WOMEN'S, CHILDREN'S AND ADOLESCENT'S HEALTH

Excellency,

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

2. While the momentum for progress and change for women and children has grown steadily in Pakistan, with declines in infant (74/1000 live birth) and child mortality rates (89/1000 live birth) have been far slower than in neighboring countries. Pakistan's maternal mortality ratio (276/100000 live birth) are also higher than those of other countries in the region. Pakistan also has the highest population growth rate among all SAARC countries and 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, newborn, children and adolescents through the Sustainable Development Goals.

3. Therefore, the Government of Pakistan affirms its support 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.

4. 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 also commit to:

a. Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent health and their safety through provision of appropriate reproductive health services, immunization and better nutrition which are major priorities of the Government of Pakistan. The Government remains committed to support the efforts being undertaken to accelerate improvement in newborn, child and maternal survival focusing on reducing preventable morbidity and mortality. Upon the directives of Prime Minister of Pakistan, a National Vision document on Priority action on RMNCAH to address challenges of Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, adolescent Health and Nutrition (2016-2025) has been developed by Government of Pakistan in line with National vision document (2025) and Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health, which has been endorsed by all stakeholders. It will serve as a guiding framework for
developing RMNCAH strategic action plans in the country and feed into National Policy Framework for Health, Population and Nutrition.

b. As committed by Government of Pakistan in its vision 2025, it plans to enhance its spending in the health sector to 3% of the GDP from current .6 percent in order to improve the health status of its population specially focusing women, adolescent and children by strengthening the health systems. In this regard PSDP allocation of US$ 153,778.29 Million for 2015-16, has been earmarked. A major initiative has been taken by the Prime Minister of Pakistan costing US$ 129,391,020.00 Million to ensure universal health coverage through National Health Insurance scheme for people living below poverty line. A total of about 100 million populations would benefit from implementation of the scheme, in a phased manner. An amount of US $ 517.5 Million for expanded program of immunization has also been earmarked for five years (2015-19) to reduce infant mortality due to communicable diseases.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

(Saira Afzal Tarar)

Excellency
Mr. BAN Ki-moon
Secretary General
United Nations