Note Number 109/2016

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the United Nations Office in Geneva and Other International Organisations presents its compliments to the World Health Organisation and has the honour to submit Zimbabwe’s commitment to the Global Strategy on Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents Health (2016 – 2030) for onward transmission to the Office of the United Nations Secretary General.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the United Nations Office in Geneva and Other International Organisations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the World Health Organisation the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva
6 June 2016

World Health Organisation
Geneva
20 May 2016

Your Excellency

COMMITMENT OF GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE TO THE GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR WOMEN’S, CHILDREN’S AND ADOLESCENTS’ HEALTH (2016 – 2030)

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.

While the momentum for progress and change for women and children has grown steadily in Zimbabwe, with MMR coming down to 526 per 100,000 live births in 2014 from 1069 in 2002, under five mortality to 75 in 2014 from 120 deaths per 1000 live births in 1999 and HIV prevalence falling down to 15.2% in 2010-11 from 29.6% in 1998, 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.

In that regard, we, the leadership of Zimbabwe, affirm our 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.

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:

a) Universal access to childhood immunisations, including Vitamin A supplementation, early neonatal care and integrated management of Childhood illnesses both in community and facility settings with the objective of reducing under five child mortality and morbidity.

b) Universalization of early initiation of breast feeding and exclusive breast feeding up to the first six months of life, including universalization of integrated young child feeding practices.

c) Universal access for women and girls to quality sexual and reproductive health care services, with a focus to progressively reduce maternal mortality and morbidity.

d) Developing innovative service delivery models to meet the sexual and reproductive health care needs of adolescent and young girls and boys, including through youth friendly services and age appropriate, culturally sensitive sexual health education.
e) Repositioning of Family Planning to meet the unmet need and strengthening integration with reproductive health, HIV / AIDS and maternal health services with the objective of fostering sustainable development.


g) Increasing public spending on health from US$24 to at least US$64 per capita by 2030.

h) Increasing the national budget dedicated to health to 15% by 2030 with a particular focus on women, children, adolescents and ending the AIDS epidemic.

Hon. Dr. D.P Parirenyatwa
MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CHILD CARE