Reaching Every Woman, Every Child, Every Adolescent, Everywhere:
Strengthening Accountability to Achieve the SDGs

Side event at the High-Level Political Forum 2016
Tuesday July 19th, 2016
6:15-730pm
Conference Room, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Deputy Permanent Representative, Ambassador Michael Grant
Good evening.

As always, Dr. Nabarro has given us an important frame for our discussion here tonight on the critical importance of accountability for delivering on the Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health and mobilizing support for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon for his skillful leadership in guiding the Every Woman Every Child movement. Your unwavering support to this movement has translated into a robust 2030 Agenda along with a new Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health, with concrete targets for meaningful change.

I would like to welcome all distinguished guests joining us here today, particularly the partners of Every Woman Every Child-or EWEC [EE-WEK]. Your steadfast dedication to improving women’s, children’s and adolescents’ health around the world reminds us that even the most daunting of challenges can be overcome. I would also like to extend my thanks to our hosts for bringing us together for this important conversation on the margins of the High-Level Political Forum.

While we have made tangible progress on women’s, children’s and adolescents’ health, serious gaps remain. Strengthening accountability mechanisms will be critical to ensure investments are evidence-based and effective and translate into sustainable and measurable results for women, children, and adolescents everywhere.

The EWEC accountability framework was built in part on the principles and recommendations of the UN’s Commission for Information and Accountability for Women’s and Children’s Health, also known as COIA [COY-AH]. One of the key lessons we learned from this process was the importance of focusing on national leadership and ownership of results. Strengthening country-level mechanisms to enhance accountability is essential for real progress to be made.
At the World Health Assembly this year, member states adopted a resolution on Global Strategy implementation, with over 30 Member State as co-sponsors. The resolution directly contributes to strengthening national accountability, such as through the involvement of the World Health Organization in providing technical support to member states to update and implement their national plans and report regularly to the World Health Assembly.

Canada is a proud partner of the EWEC movement and is committed to working with all members to ensure the success of the Global Strategy. If we want the Global Strategy to be fully—and successfully—implemented, women children and adolescents must be empowered participants and true partners in development. I see a challenge to us all to ensure that they are a part of the dialogue and seen as key stakeholders in holding partners to account.

There are many partners involved in delivering on the Global Strategy - country governments, civil society, PMNCH, the GFF and the H6, among others. This wealth of technical, contextual, and strategic expertise among partners is key, but unless we include young people in the design and implementation of our work, we will not meet our objectives.

We must ensure that adolescent girls, in particular, have a meaningful seat at the table. Canada strongly believes that the energy and the commitment of the adolescent generation is the key to progress on achieving our collective goals, but also ensuring we are accountable for our commitments.

As a member of the High-Level Advisory Group, Canada will continue to collaborate with stakeholders across sectors to ensure women’s, children’s and adolescents’ health remains a leading priority for the global community.

Canada is proud to be a part of such a dedicated group of partners. I know that together, we can facilitate long-lasting change for women, children, and adolescents.

Thank you.