September 14, 2018

Your Excellency,

The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic recognizes that addressing sexual and reproductive health issues is essential to the development of the country, ending poverty and achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

The Kyrgyz Republic has made significant progress in reduction of the maternal mortality during the last several years. By the end of 2017, the Kyrgyz Republic has achieved its set target on reduction of maternal mortality in the frame of the National Healthcare Reforms Program “Den Sooluk 2012-2018”. The Kyrgyz Republic have experienced insufficient progress with securing rights of people to freely choose, obtain, and use high-quality contraceptives, including condoms for family planning and prevention of HIV/STIs. Unmet need for family planning is still high constituting 19%.

Family Planning (FP) services and supplies are included in the National Mandatory Health Insurance benefits package that are accessible at primary health care facilities. The Kyrgyz Republic expressed “intention of commitment” at FP 2020 Summit in London in 2017 to accelerate progress in the area of family planning and to allocate state funds for the purchase of contraceptives to cover the needs of vulnerable women. Three (3) million som allocated in the budget of the Ministry of Health for procurement of contraceptives in 2018.

Commitment of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Agenda 2030 along with the commitment to goals of the National Healthcare Reforms Program “Den Sooluk 2012-2018” require mobilized efforts to accelerate progress in improving quality of family planning services and the attainment of greater access and utilization of modern contraceptives particularly for women from vulnerable groups. The Ministry of Health is working with UNFPA to improve the quality family planning services and the public demand for family planning. Family planning remains one of priorities in the new National Health Strategy 2030.

Taking into consideration the above information, let me present commitments of the Kyrgyz Republic in support of the Woman Every Child (EWEC) Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health through Family Planning 2020:

Recognizing the importance of meeting the population's needs for family planning in the Kyrgyz Republic, the Ministry of Health is committed to making a commitment to accelerate the progress, which is ensuring the people's rights to access family planning services, including contraceptives, by:

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1. Strengthening political will in the implementation of the family planning program to achieve the Kyrgyz Republic’s commitments under the Sustainable Development Goals:
   - Develop a program to protect the health of women, newborns, children and adolescents for 2019-2030 with a costed plan of action and budget, including a package of indicators.
   - Eliminate barriers in the registration of modern methods of contraceptives in the Kyrgyz Republic and help increase the number and variety of contraceptives available in the market of the Kyrgyz Republic.
   - Include to the Additional Drug Package under the State Guarantees Program of the Kyrgyz Republic the injectable, barrier contraceptives and contraceptives for emergency contraception.

2. Willingness to finance family planning in order to ensure reliable supply and reasonable use of modern means of contraception for vulnerable segments of the female population:
   - Increase public funding for purchasing of contraceptives in 2019 at least for one million soms in comparison with 2018 for women from the list of high medical and social risk of maternal mortality approved by the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic.
   - Develop a 5-year plan to gradually increase public funding to meet the needs of 50% of women in the high medical and social risks of maternal mortality by 2023.

3. Providing quality health services for family planning through the implementation of WHO recommendations and raising the awareness among population about family planning:
   - Increase the use of contraceptives by women of reproductive age to 30% by the end of 2020.
   - Improve the quality of family planning services through the implementation of WHO recommendations and clinical protocols for family planning with monitoring the implementation of clinical protocols.
   - Revise the curriculum for family planning of the Kyrgyz State Medical Institute for Continuous Education with a focus on counseling and practical skills on long acting methods of contraception. Develop an electronic package of documents for family planning for distance learning.
   - Raise awareness among the population on family planning through communication activities and involvement of Republican Health Promotion Center and village health committees.

I believe that our strong political commitment, evidence-based actions and close collaboration with key partners will enable to achieve the goals of the Global Strategy.

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Minister of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic

H.E Mr. António Guterres
Secretary-General
The United Nations
New York