Excellency,

It gives me immense pleasure to share with you that the launching of the Global Strategy, by the United Nations, for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health in 2012 has given remarkable impetus in improving their health and wellbeing around the world. The continued leadership of the UN has ensured the articulation and acceptance of the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescent's Health for 2016-30. I write to affirm Bangladesh's full commitment to the objectives of the new phase of the Global Strategy.

Bangladesh's commitment to the wellbeing of women, children and adolescents has been demonstrated by the significant reduction in maternal and child mortality over the last decade and consequently, the Honourable Prime Minister has received the UN Award in the 55th General Assembly. Besides, we feel proud that Bangladesh has been chosen in the London FP2020 Summit as an exemplary case of country progress for its success in Family Planning.

Bangladesh has emphasized the need for Family Planning since its independence in 1971. The Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman considered Family Planning as one of the key priorities for future development. The Family Planning service in Bangladesh is delivered in an integrated way through facility-based services including the Community Clinics, located in the rural areas.

Bangladesh is committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The recently approved 4th Health Sector Programme, 2017-2021, of the Health Ministry, has put the country on track to attaining the targets by 2030.

I am happy to present to you Bangladesh's renewed commitments in support of the Every Woman Every Child (EWEC) Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health through Family Planning 2020:

1. Bangladesh will increase its commitment for postpartum family planning by fully implementing its National Postpartum Family Planning Action Plan by training doctors, midwives, nurses and, in part by placing Family Welfare Visitors in each of the 64 district hospitals.

2. Bangladesh will introduce a regional service package on family planning in Chittagong, Sylhet and Barisal divisions for hard to reach populations.

3. Bangladesh commits to deploy at least two qualified diploma midwives in each of the Upazila Health Complexes to provide midwife-led continuum of quality reproductive health care by 2021. Midwives will be trained to provide widest range of family planning methods included in their agreed scope of practice in country. Midwives will be trained to provide greater attention to first time young mothers.
4. Bangladesh commits to mobilize at least USD 615 million from its development budget for the family planning program implemented by the Directorate General of Family Planning as part of its 4th Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Programme (2017-2021). This is a 67% increase from the allocation in the 3rd Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Programme (2012-2016).

5. Bangladesh will fully operationalize its new National Adolescent Health Strategy in view of promoting rights of all adolescents. Special efforts will be made to track adolescent health data. Bangladesh reiterates its commitment to end child marriage.

6. Bangladesh will scale up quality improvement measures in family planning programs by establishing Family Planning Clinical Supervision Teams (FPCST) in each of the 64 districts.

7. Bangladesh commits to providing free and adequate contraceptives to NGOs, private clinics and hospitals and garment factory clinics with trained FP personnel.

8. Bangladesh will use technology and programme delivery innovations in family planning
   a) In capacity development by providing Tablets to field workers including an e-Toolkit and develop eLearning courses and empower them with ICT knowledge and skills.
   b) In programme delivery by working with Marriage Registrars to reach newlywed couples with family planning messages and organizing family planning client fairs in hard-to-reach areas.

9. Bangladesh will include a service provider with reproductive health skills within its rapid response teams and mainstream the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for reproductive health in crisis into its emergency response.

We believe that our strong political commitment and focus on data driven, evidence-based actions will enable us to achieve the goals of the global strategy as well as that of the SDGs by 2030.

Mohammed Nasim, MP
Minister
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

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