Excellency,

Secretary-General of the United Nation

Antonio Guterres,

We, in the Republic of Yemen, have affirmed and still, our commitment to the Global Strategy and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially concerning the vision of "Every Woman Every Child" as well as our commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). And we have followed all the policies and strategies to achieve them.

Despite the complex and exceptional circumstances that our country has experienced, we have made significant strides, and we have achieved remarkable progress, which has been confirmed by the vital indicators reflected in the results of the Health and Demographic Survey (YNHDS) 2013 on reproductive health and maternal and child health. We provide -to name but a few -some indicators of this progress, including the infant mortality rate in our country, which was one of the highest in the world, which, in some of them, has fallen in 10 years, by about 50%:

Maternal mortality rate
148/100000 in 2013 compared to 365/100000 in 2003.

Neonatal mortality rate
26/1000 live births in 2013 compared to 37/1000 live births in 2003.

Infant mortality rate
43/1000 live births in 2013 compared to 75/1000 live births in 2003.

Child mortality rate
53/1000 in 2013 compared to 102/1000 in 2003.

Thus, although the figures are still high and do not represent our ambition, we were moving in the right direction towards achieving the desired objectives through the government's cooperation and partnership with various partners and carrying out multiple actions that contributed to the abovementioned progress, including:

1. Increased the number of reproductive and childbirth centers in different regions of the country, providing free-of-charge services or services at a nominal cost in a few of them.

2. Trained many local health personnel, especially midwives, to ensure safe delivery for pregnant women.

3. Encouraged the community initiatives to engage in reproductive health, child health and nutrition, for preventive and therapeutic purposes.
4. Intensified and expanded routine immunization programs—in terms of quantity and quality—and continued to conduct house-to-house outreach immunization campaigns to cover the potential shortage of routine immunization to address possible risks.

5. Increased attention to school health programs and provided them with qualified health personnel.

6. Increased attention to raising awareness of community health by supporting and activating the National Centre for Health and Population Education and Information (NCHPEI) under the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoPHP); providing it with qualified staff and training its existing staff using various means of communications.

However, the disastrous war that has been raging in our country for the past four years has cast a dark shadow on all aspects of life, including reproductive health and maternal and child health. In addition to the killing and injury of many women and children, the war has posed significant challenges, including, but not limited to:

1. Many health facilities are completely closed or partially functioning due to their destruction or being located in unsafe fighting zones and the inability of the beneficiaries to reach them.

2. Hundreds of thousands of citizens were internally and externally displaced and are exposed to many health problems, epidemiologically, nutritionally and psychologically.

3. Thousands of children and adolescents were recruited by the coupists and thrown into the battlefronts, which has caused the killing or injury of many of them, and many were left with permanent or temporary disabilities.

4. Many qualified health personnel have left their jobs in pursuit of safety or sources of livelihood, especially in areas under the coupists control, for they have deprived health personnel of their monthly wages and other financial incentives for more than two years.

5. Children were prevented from receiving immunization doses in some areas of the country outside the control of the legitimate government for unjustifiable reasons.

6. Many schools, institutes and educational institutions located in the areas of armed confrontations have been destroyed or many have been converted into military barracks. Thus, thousands of children have been deprived of their education, their educational attainment and their health awareness.

Furthermore, there are other real challenges.
However, the government, represented by the MoPHP and other ministries and institutions, in cooperation and partnership with local, regional and international partners, has devoted its efforts during the past years of war to overcome these challenges, which almost destroyed the health system in the whole country, which was about to collapse totally. Reproductive health and maternal and child health programs have received the greatest attention in the context of emergency response through relief assistance and other routine work through the continued operation of reproductive health programs, maternal care and expanded routine immunization, non-routine campaigns and intensification of work in IDPs gathering areas as well as activating the role of mobile services and others.

On this occasion, we, in the Republic of Yemen, affirm our commitment, in cooperation and partnership with all partners, to work towards overcoming these challenges; to provide more support and focus on reproductive health programs and maternal, child and adolescent health; and to achieve better results to reduce the mortality rates among these important segments of our society, especially those resulted from preventable causes of death through appropriate preventive and remedial measures and interventions in line with the international trends within the framework of the Global Strategy and SDGs.

So, we are planning that by the end of 2030, the coverage and utilization of human rights-based RH, maternal, child and adolescent health services will be improved; provided that the present situation in the country is; hopefully, settled, to achieve the following:

(i) 85% of functioning hospitals provide comprehensive Emergency Obstetric Care.
(ii) 70% of functioning health centers provide basic Emergency Obstetric Care.
(iii) 60% of births are performed by a skilled birth attendant.
(iv) The prenatal death rate is reduced from 36 to 26/1000 deliveries.
(v) To increase the exclusive breastfeeding rate from 10% to 30%.
(vi) Prevalence of modern contraceptives use reaches at least 45%.
(vii) The unmet need for modern family planning is reduced to 15%.
(viii) Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-19 years) is reduced from 67 to 50 births/1000 adolescent women.
(ix) Late detection of diagnosis is reduced to less than 10% of women with breast and cervical cancers.

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