Excellency,

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 Lesotho, with reduction in infant mortality rate, stunting level and increased uptake of PMTCT services, increased skilled birth attendance, 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.

Therefore, we, the Heads of Lesotho 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) introduce a policy to ensure universal free maternity services, including deliveries in hospitals, by 2020
b) introduce a policy to ensure subsidised child health services for children below the age of five years
c) scale up emergency obstetric care to ensure equitable access to Basic Obstetric Care to 80% of women in need and Comprehensive obstetric care to 60% of women in need by 2020 and 100% of women in need by 2030
d) ensure that 100% of health facilities have heath personnel with adequate skills in emergency obstetric and neonatal care
e) repositioning family planning so that at least 80% have access to sexual and reproductive health commodities, achieving CPR of 70% by 2020 and 80% by 2030
f) achieve coverage 80% of infants fully immunized by 2020 and 90% fully immunized by 2030
g) to finalize national nutrition policy and to develop national nutrition strategy by 2016
h) ensure universal implementation of the integrated management of childhood illnesses programme
i) to scale up high impact HIV interventions leading to achievement meeting the 90 -90 -90 target by 2020
j) ensure the mobilization of the budget line for the actual purchase of family planning commodities in alignment with London commitment (FP2020), establishing a mechanism to subsidize family planning services for the most vulnerable users, notably adolescents and youth and women with disabilities by 2020.
k) increase the national budget dedicated to health to 15% by 2020 with a particular focus on women, children, adolescents and HIV
l) conduct advocacy to increase the State’s budgetary allocation for reproductive health to 5% per year by 2020
Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

[Excellency OR Excellency
Ms./Mr. ... Ms./Mr....
President of...]
Prime Minister of...