India reaffirms its unwavering support to the Every Woman Every Child Movement and its goal to end preventable maternal, new-born, child and adolescent deaths and ensuring their health and well-being. India recognizes the pivotal importance of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the fact that sustained, multi-sectoral and multidimensional efforts are required to attain these.

2. I am happy to share with the global community that we have actualised our commitment towards universal health coverage with the launch and fast track implementation of Ayushman Bharat, that has twin components of universalising Comprehensive Primary Health care through 1,50,000 Health and Wellness Centres located close to the community and the Prime Minister’s Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), the biggest health protection scheme in the world, reaching out to 500 million people. The aim is to not only provide financial protection and access to care for the marginalized, underserved, and poorer segments of the population, but also to inculcate healthy habits and care seeking behaviour for promoting health and well-being.

3. The health of women, children and adolescents continues to be paramount and the core areas of all our healthcare strategies. We have already adapted the Global Strategy to formulate India Strategy for Women’s Children’s and Adolescents’ Health and are on the path to operationalise it through multi stakeholder participation. The strategy will have far reaching implications as it not only aims to end all preventable maternal, child and adolescent deaths but also tries to address the health concerns of women beyond reproduction, including non-communicable diseases, infectious diseases and other unique burdens that affect them disproportionately. Particular focus is laid on levers of action: Leadership, governance & accountability; Financing for health; Health systems strengthening to improve effective coverage; Inclusion; Multi-sectoral action; Partnerships and collaboration; Evidence and learning for action and adaptation; Community participation; and social & behaviour change communication.

4. We have set ambitious targets for us in terms of accelerated reduction of maternal and child mortality and attain these SDG targets much ahead of 2030. Emphatic actions to improve vaccination coverage, reaching more than 90% of children, continue to remain on top of agenda to see to it that no child dies of a vaccine preventable disease. We have successfully implemented the globally acclaimed Mission Indradhanush and continue to build upon the gains, not only through increase in the number of antigens covered, but also reaching the left-out population through targeted campaigns to complement the routine

services. The family welfare programme of India has also expanded the basket of choice and we commit to increase contraceptive use rate so that 74% of the demand for modern contraceptives is met by 2020. Adolescent health and well-being is also a prime area of focus and in addition to the routine interventions, we have taken a novel approach of addressing health needs through the health and wellness ambassadors in schools. This will bring forth a change through reinforcement of positive attitude and behaviour from a young age for 253 million adolescents.

5. The Government has made considerable strategic investments in this regard and implemented a number of innovative initiatives together with other relevant Ministries and partners. All these efforts will be backed up by a sustained increase in the resource allocation and we envisage that health allocation is set to reach 2.5% of GDP by 2025 in line with our National Health Policy and the needs of women, children and adolescents will be prioritized within this as well as within the UHC ambit. We also commit to increase collaboration, forge new partnerships, support innovations, enhance cooperation and share knowledge with both global north as well as south. Global partnerships and firm commitments are need of the hour when we are marching forward in our quest to ensure that every individual has a greater chance than ever to survive, everyone gets an equal opportunity to thrive and every woman, every child and every adolescent gets to contribute effectively to transform his/her surroundings, eventually making this world a better place to live in.