MINISTER OF HEALTH
REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

H.E António Guterres
Secretary General
United Nations
New York,
United States of America

Dear Secretary General,

Maldives applauds and appreciates the efforts initiated for the successful advancement and implementation of the Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health.

Maldives made significant progress in reducing child, infant and maternal mortality, achieving the MDG 4 and 5 well ahead of the target with around 90% reduction. This global strategy will support unfinished agenda of MDG and also contribute towards SDG targets. With increased access to good quality health services and improved access to emergency obstetric care and newborn care across all parts of the country, survival of newborns and mothers have largely been ensured. Skilled attendance in prenatal care and at birth is universally accessible, free of charge to all citizens through the health insurance scheme fully funded by the government.

While we have addressed survival adequately, we identify enhancing the thrive and transformation targets stipulated in the global strategy should be given a better focus for achieving optimal health and wellbeing of women, children and adolescents. An overarching life-course approach through a better organised people centred primary health care is targeted in the health care delivery system. Currently, work is in progress to develop the next 5-year reproductive health strategy which would encompass reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health (RMNACH) needs.

We recognise the need for the right evidences and operational research to realise and apply new approaches in programmatic interventions. Meaningful multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral action and engagement, strengthened accountability processes, motivating and tracking implementation and assessing the impact of policies and interventions are areas that require improved attention to reduce inequities in health outcomes.

In this respect, I would like to re-affirm the commitment of the government of Maldives in the quest of the global effort to achieve a healthier, more inclusive and sustainable future for all women, children and adolescents, everywhere. We look forward for collaborative support, expertise and technical guidance in our endeavours, through the linkages and mechanisms attached with the Global Strategy.

Sincerely,

abdulla Ameen