



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

***Pledge of support to the Global Strategy for Women's,
Children's and Adolescents' health***

October, 2015

Pledge of Support to the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's Adolescent's Health

In 2010, the launch of the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescent's Health by the United Nations Secretary-General 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 Zambia, progress is still required, building on the success and lessons learnt to complete unfinished Millennium Development Goals (MDG)'s agenda and further pursue our efforts for women, children and adolescents through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Maternal mortality has declined from 729 per 100,000 live births in 2002 to 398 per 100,000 live births in 2014. Under five mortality declined from 197 per 1000 live births in 2002 to 75 per 1000 live births in in 2014. These reductions are still insufficient. Many pregnant women, neonates, and children continue to die from preventable, treatable and/or curable causes. Only 64 percent of pregnancies are delivered by skilled attendants. In general, proven cost effective and high impact interventions have low coverage.

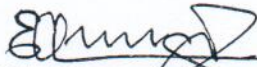
Therefore, I, the President of the Republic of Zambia, do affirm my country's support to the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescent's Health (2016-30) as a global effort to bring all stakeholders together in support of countries' work to improve women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health 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. Zambia commits to:

- (a) Strengthening access to adolescent sexual and reproductive services, prioritizing reduction of teenage pregnancy and elimination of child marriage by 2030;

- (b) Elimination of un-met need for family planning and elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV;
- (c) Ensuring availability of bundled vaccines and cold chain equipment and implement equity focused immunization program reaching every child by 2030;
- (d) Scaling up of nutrition sensitive and nutrition specific interventions including the 1000 days' strategy and reduce stunting by 2030;
- (e) Strengthening the Human Resource for Health capacity to meet the Country's demand for equitable and sustainable skilled birth attendance, and fostering community participation;
- (f) Ensuring increased allocation of the health sector budget for reproductive maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health;
- (g) Ensuring availability of reproductive health commodities including equipment, drugs and other supplies;
- (h) Continue on-going efforts to strengthen infrastructure for maternal and child health services; and
- (i) Harmonization of all principle pieces of legislation related to children which will strengthen child protection system such as ending of forced child marriages.

.....October, 2015



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HIS EXCELLENCY MR. EDGAR CHAGWA LUNGU
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA