Quality, Equity, Dignity
A Network for Improving Quality of Care
for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

Committed to Quality, Equity and Dignity

Statement of the first meeting of the Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

— Committing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including Sustainable Development Goal 3 to "ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages", in particular the targets to end preventable maternal and child mortality, and achieving universal health coverage;

— Committing to the implementation of *the Global strategy for women's, children's and adolescents' health 2016-2030* to reach its objectives of "survive, thrive and transform";

— Welcoming the strong commitment of partners joined under the Every Woman Every Child movement to implement the global strategy and support quality, equity and dignity in maternal, newborn and child health services;

— Recognizing that, despite remarkable advances in the past two decades, maternal, newborn and child mortality, and stillbirths, remain unacceptably high, and that progress has been uneven across and within countries, often leaving behind the most vulnerable;

— We, the participants from nine countries,[1] regional and global organizations, are joining forces to establish and lead the Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health;

— We commit to work under a common vision in which every woman, newborn and child receives high-quality care with respect and dignity;

— We strive to achieve the goal of halving maternal and newborn mortality and stillbirths in health facilities in each of our countries within five years, thereby working towards the overall national targets of ending preventable maternal and newborn deaths and stillbirths, and reducing morbidity and disability;

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[1] Bangladesh, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda

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— Acknowledging that the ambitious goal put forward by the Network requires a massive, coordinated effort that should be inspired by joint learning and should go beyond the health sector;

— Building on the progress that Network countries have made to various degrees and in different aspects towards the delivery of quality care in health services;

— We – country, regional and global partners – commit to:

- Align our contributions towards the national policy and strategy for quality of maternal, newborn and child care, and coordinate our actions in line with government priorities and plans;
- Work under government leadership and in coordination with other key stakeholders to implement the national operational plan for improving quality in maternal, newborn and child health services;
- Assist governments in building capabilities for leading and implementing the continuous improvement process and monitor its progress at national, district, facility and community level;
- Support frontline teams to test and implement changes to improve local processes and systems to achieve high-quality care;
- Support governments to generate, collect, analyse and synthesize data and learning from improvements in maternal, newborn and child health to identify effective, scalable and sustainable approaches;
- Strengthen integration of maternal and newborn health, as well as integration with other sectors within and outside of health;
- Engage communities and health workers, including through social accountability processes, ensuring that the voices of women are heard;
- Promote health rights education and equitable services for all;
- Facilitate global learning through exchange of best practices, expertise and experience within and between the countries, through active participation in national learning systems and the global learning network;

— Finally, as members of the Network, we gratefully acknowledge the technical leadership and support of the World Health Organization, UNICEF, UNFPA and the UN system at large to facilitate the Network, and enable transformation in health and sustainable development for every woman, newborn and child everywhere to survive and thrive.