REMARKS BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HEALTH MRS CHIMWEMWE G. BANDA AT THE LAUNCH OF THE GLOBAL NETWORK TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF CARE FOR MOTHERS, NEWBORN AND CHILDREN

- Minister of Health Hon Dr Peter Kumpalume MP
- The Uganda State Minister of Health
- The first wave countries in the Global Network for Improving Quality of Care
- UN Country coordinator, Mia Seppo
- WHO Country Representative Dr Eugene Nyarko
- UNICEF Country Representative
- Directors and Deputy Directors in the Ministry of Health and other government officials here present
- Development Partners
- Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my pleasure and honour to welcome you Honourable Minister and all distinguished guests to this event here at Bingu International Conference Centre in Lilongwe. We welcome you at this historical event in the health sector when we are launching the Global Network to improve Quality of Care for mothers, newborn and children. Takulandirani ndi manja awiri (You are very welcome)

Hon. Minister, my humble duty at this moment is to ask you to address the delegates who have come from all over the regions of the world, but before I do that allow me to make few remarks.

Hon. Minister Ladies and Gentlemen, as you are aware, countries recognize the need that pregnant women, newborn and children receive quality care. It is for this reason that huge investments are made in improving access to health care. It is encouraging, Hon Minister, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, that countries have made tremendous improvements in improving access especially during era of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However, mortality
related to child bearing is still high. It is still sad to note that many women and children die during child birth, neonatal mortality is alarming and we can not afford to remain silent. There is a missing link between access to health services and best outcomes that we all aim for. Improving quality of care must be the focus of the health systems during the implementation of Universal Health Coverage for all countries.

Strategies should be implemented to improve the quality of care across all levels of the health system so that mothers should not die, but make childbirth a happy and memorable occasion for families.

If we can invest in anything today, let’s invest in improving the Quality of Care. Quality is everyone’s responsibility and as countries, we should work to make it as a pillar in the National Health Strategic plans.

Hon Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen, this Global network to improve the Quality of Care for mothers, new born and children will be a catalyst for building resilient health systems across the world. It will provide a platform for ensuring that the quality improvement activities become an integral part of health care delivery that is in line with new developments and global best practices.

At this juncture, Hon Minister, I ask you to address the people that are here with us to celebrate the launch of this great network for the first wave countries.

Thank you very much Hon Minister.