Dr Julio Frenk  
Chair, The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health

This year, the issue of maternal, newborn and child health has reached the top of the political agenda.

From the G8 Muskoka Initiative and the African Union, to the UN Secretary General’s *Strategy on Women’s and Children’s Health*, the world has agreed that it is time to join forces and act together in moving pledges to action. We have made unprecedented pledges of increased resources to save women’s and children’s lives.

As Chair of The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health, I welcome you to New Delhi for this global meeting of partners hosted by the Government of India.

The 2010 Partners’ Forum will see us come together to strengthen our resources for accountability, to share the knowledge and networks needed to scale-up models for change, and to deepen our connections across sectors and regions to enhance financing, policies and service delivery.

Our mission is clear: We must end this important year with a common program of work. This will allow all of us -- from governments to health professionals to civil society to the UN and the donor community and the private sector-- to play our part to consolidate commitments and speed progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

We are here in Delhi to translate this year’s promises into concrete steps in this last mile towards 2015 and in saving the lives of millions of women and children. Together we are investing in our common future and moving *From Pledges to Action*. 
Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad  
Honorable Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare,  
Government of India

The Partners’ Forum, ‘From Pledges to Action’, is both important and timely as we approach 2015 – the target year for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. India is an appropriate choice for this high level conference and we are happy to host the Partners’ Forum in our country. India is dedicated to the issue of Maternal and Child Health and holding of this conference after the UN Summit on MDGs reflects our commitment to the cause.

India is making all out efforts to address the key maternal and child health related issues, which include strengthening of primary health care system and providing quality care to mothers and children. The intervention also include building up of capacity of nurses and midwives, community involvement in delivery of health care and advocacy to address social determinants of maternal and child mortality, such as early marriage, discrimination against girl child, etc.

I am sure the conference shall provide further momentum and help in catalyzing the progress towards achieving MDGs 4 and 5. Considering the contribution of The Partnership towards maternal and child health, we look forward to closer engagements with it, this year and beyond.