February, 24th 2014, New York. (Draft. Check against the delivery. Dr Joe Thomas, Executive Director, Partners in Population and Development)

Partners in Population and Development: Commitment, in Support of the UN Secretary-General’s Every Woman Every Child Movement.

Good evening

UN Secretary-General H.E. Mr Ban Ki-moon,
Dr. Margaret Chan, Director-General World Health Organisation,
Secretary-General’s Special Envoy Mr Raymond Chambers, Financing the Health-Related MDGs and for Malaria,
Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director UNFPA,
Mr Yiping Zhou, Director, UN Office for South-South Cooperation,
UN Permanent representative of Bangladesh, H.E. Dr. A.K Abdul Momen,
Excellences’, friends and colleagues,

Partners in Population and Development (PPD) is delighted to announce our commitment in support of the Secretary-General’s every Woman every child movement. Partners in Population and Development (PPD) is an inter-governmental alliance of 26 developing countries mandated to promote South-South Cooperation in the area of Reproductive Health, Population and Development. We are a Permanent Observer at the United Nations General Assembly and have representative offices in New York, Kampala, Shanghai, Bangkok and Geneva.

We acknowledge and commit our support to the secretary General’s Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health. Each year, millions of women and children die from preventable causes. We commit to work with the Secretary General to improve the health of every woman and every child around the world to ensure, that their interest will be in the core agenda of action post ICPD and MDG.

We collectively resolve to ensure universal access to essential health services and proven, life-saving interventions as we work to strengthen health systems. These range from family planning and making childbirth safe, to increasing access to vaccines and treatment for HIV and AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, pneumonia and other preventable diseases. We acknowledge, the needs of each country vary and depend on existing resources and capacities. Often the solutions are very simple, such as clean water, exclusive breastfeeding, nutrition, and education on how to prevent poor health.

We highlight the critical role of South-South collaboration and concrete contributions that can be made to achieve the health MDGs by 2015 and beyond.
PPD is committing to ensure that our programs and activities will promote inclusion of Every Woman and Every Child as the beneficiary of all our policy and program efforts. Our commitment to EWEC campaign will be carried out in the following specific areas;

1. Knowledge sharing: PPD will facilitate knowledge sharing on Reproductive, Maternal, New-born and Child Health (RMNCH) issues among member countries. PPD will partner with selected institutions to strengthen joint research on specific policy and program issues related to RMNCH.

2. Capacity building: PPD Will endeavour to contribute to the human resources capacity needs of Reproductive, Maternal, New-born and Child Health (RMNCH) programs in member countries, through PPD scholarship programs, and South –South Technical Advisory Service, and other activities.

3. Commodity and technology transfer: PPD will host regulatory authority’s consultation with member countries to evolve strategies to fast-track 13 life-saving commodities identified by the UN Commission on Life-Saving Commodities.

4. Advocacy and policy dialogue: PPD will promote the use of essential package of RMNCH related interventions and commodities at PPD inter-ministerial and other high level forums. PPD is associated with other forums such as the 12th International congress on AIDS in the Asia and the Pacific to be held in Dhaka in November 2015. PPD is co-hosting this event with the Ministry of Health, Government of Bangladesh.

5. Partnership and resource mobilization: PPD will strengthen its partnership with various stakeholders involved in RMNCH, Gender equity and rights. Joint resource mobilization will be carried out though these partnerships. We will partner with the Secretary-General’s Every Woman Every Child Movement and explore opportunities for resource mobilization. PPD is a partner to the Partnerships for Maternal New born Child Health (PMNCH), WHO’s Gender, Equity and Rights Mainstreaming and Ageing and life course departments. These partnerships will provide an avenue for resource mobilization for RMNCH.

6. Diplomacy: PPD will use diplomatic opportunities in the General Assembly, UN agencies in Geneva and UN ESCAP through its diplomatic presence in promoting the goals of Every Woman and Every Child campaign.

7. Monitoring: PPD will present an annual progress report of implementing member countries commitments to the *Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health*. 
A more detailed plan of action for PPD commitment will be discussed in the next Board meeting and we will report back to the Secretary General on the progress of PPD’s commitment.

Thank you.