



# ACTING ON THE CALL

Overcoming Critical Barriers to Maternal and Child Survival

2017 Summit Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

## ADDIS DECLARATION TO END PREVENTABLE CHILD AND MATERNAL DEATHS

*MINISTERIAL DECLARATION, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA  
AUGUST 25, 2017*

We, the Ministers and Heads of Country Delegations of 26 countries, gathered here in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia August 24<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 for the Fourth Acting on the Call Summit, applaud the remarkable progress achieved in reducing maternal, newborn, and child mortality. We also applaud and reiterate the commitment made in adopting the Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015, including the 2030 targets to further reduce mortality and put our countries on a sustainable path to ending all preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths and achieving universal health coverage.

We also reiterate our commitment to the Delhi Declaration made at the Global Call to Action Summit 2015 to support the Every Woman Every Child 2016-2030 Global Strategy for Women's, Children's, and Adolescents' Health, and thereby take action to ensure that women and children not only survive, but also have the opportunity to thrive in an enabling environment.

We fully recognize that significant barriers remain to maternal and child survival, and we have gathered to share best practices and learn from each other how to most effectively overcome these challenges:



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**Improving Quality:** We commit to concerted efforts to improve the quality and therefore the effectiveness and efficiency of critical health services to prevent disease and death. We will systematically work to routinely measure the quality of maternal and child health services, delivered by both public and private sectors, including a specific focus on respectful maternity care.

**Achieving Equity:** We commit to ensuring equity in access to essential health services and in the social determinants of health, reaching underserved and hard-to-reach populations.

**Building Resilience:** We commit to building strong health systems through regional collaboration and multi-sectoral coordination, that ensure sustainability and protect populations from the effects of infectious diseases, natural disasters, drought, conflict and displacement.

**Sustaining Financing:** We commit to advocate for expanding domestic resources for health, ensuring the most effective use of all financing, including increased aid-effectiveness and reducing out-of-pocket expenditures that can impoverish families and threaten national development.

**Revolutionizing Information:** We commit to using appropriate tools and technologies, to systematically analyze the data gathered in routine systems and national surveys, and to use this information to drive evidence-based decision making, set priorities, and allocate resources



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effectively and efficiently, developing a culture of accountability and aligning our resources to the greatest needs.

We welcome the vital role of frontline health workers, as extended arms of, and supported by, robust primary health care systems. We therefore commit to strengthening the community level of our health systems as a critical step in realizing universal health coverage.

Finally, we commit to work to meet these challenges in partnership, with each other and also with the non-state actors gathered here with us in Addis Ababa, including international organizations, financing partners, and donors; civil society and community members, non-governmental, and faith-based organizations; and the private sector. Such partnerships will be critical to mobilizing the additional resources required to address the challenges we have discussed at this Summit, including engaging where feasible the recently deployed Global Financing Facility in support of Every Woman Every Child.

We will continue to hold ourselves accountable to these commitments through regular monitoring of progress through this joint platform, and to promote cross-learning, knowledge sharing and collaboration among the nations present to end preventable deaths of mothers, newborns and children, and ensuring they not only survive, but thrive.