India’s Statement at the Nairobi Summit on ICPD@25

Excellencies, Dignitaries, Experts, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to be here to commemorate 25 years of ICPD. India is a signatory to the ICPD Programme of Action and on this important occasion, India is committed to reaffirm its commitments and investments to sustain the gains, address the unfinished business of the ICPD and achieve the SDGs.

• **India commits to ensure Universal Health Coverage** through its Flagship Programme, ‘Ayushman Bharat’ (Healthy India). Under National Health Protection Scheme (called Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, or PM-JAY) it will cover 500 million Indians providing coverage of 7000 US dollars per family per year. Additionally 0.15 million health and wellness centers will provide comprehensive primary health care.

• **India commits to substantially reduce the unmet need for contraception** by 2030 by increasing the range of contraceptives and improving the quality of family planning services. We commit to advocate voluntary and informed choice wherein couples can freely and responsibly decide the number and spacing of their children.

• **We also commit to achieve the SDG target for MMR of less than 70** by 2030 through Suman (Surakshit Matritav Aashwasan – Safe Motherhood Assurance), ensuring assured delivery of maternal and new born health care services. India will also roll out midwifery services, to improve the quality of care.

• **We will ensure access for all adolescents and youth, and especially girls, to comprehensive and age-responsive information, education and adolescent friendly comprehensive, quality and timely health services** under the Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RJKSK).

• **We wish to address gender-based violence to achieve SDG 5.2 by** eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls through improved implementation of legislative frameworks and strengthened schematic interventions.
- We also commit to increasing government health expenditure. The Government of India has already pledged 3 billion USD by 2020 for improving reproductive health services.

- India will continue to draw on its demographic diversity to drive economic growth and achieve sustainable development by formulating state-specific policies as per age, sex and migration characteristics. We also commit to young people’s education, health and skills and will enhance our commitments for health and well-being of ageing population.

- We will be striving to address Gender Biased Sex Selection by changing mindsets, structures and policies.

- India commits to providing quality, timely and dis-aggregated data, investing in digital health innovations, and improvement of data systems by 2030 to achieve sustainable development.
India & ICPD: Brief Overview

A. What Has Changed: Huge Improvements Made by India in Key ICPD Areas
Since, 1994, India has made huge improvements in the key ICPD PoA parameters. Some of the key parameters where remarkable improvements can be seen, are:

- From 3.6 in 1994, the total fertility rate (TFR) has come down to 2.2 in 2015-16
- The modern contraception use has increased from 36% in 1992-93 to 48% in 2015-16
- The unmet need for family planning has come down from 16% in 1998-99 to 13% in 2015-16
- Girls marrying before the legal age of 18 years has come down from 52.8% in 1994 to 20.7% in 2015-16
- Teenage pregnancies halved over a period of 10 years; from 16% in 2005-06 to 7.9% in 2015-16
- The maternal mortality ratio (MMR) has reduced from 424 in 1991-91 to 130 in 2014-16
- Women making 4+ ANC visits has increased from 26% in 1992-93 to 51% in 2015-16 while institutional deliveries have increased remarkably from 27% in 1992-93 to 79% in 2015-16.

B. Unfinished Business

Despite vast improvements in key ICPD areas, the Cairo agenda has yet to be realized for all the people in all places. The unfinished business in India as per the ICPD review includes:

- An estimated 47 million women want to avoid pregnancy but cannot;
- 4 women die giving birth every hour; there are 350 million estimated women in the reproductive age group of 15-49 years in India
- 1 in 3 women have faced some form of violence; and
- 1 in 3 of the world’s child brides lives in India.

India has done remarkably well on key ICPD parameters BUT there are huge variations across states, education level, rural-urban, social and economic categories. India needs to ensure choices and rights in providing information and services to everybody, especially the last young girl and boy and woman to so that nobody is left behind.