



SPEECH BY

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**DURING THE LAUNCH OF GLOBAL
NETWORK FOR IMPROVING QUALITY
OF CARE FOR MATERNAL, NEWBORN
AND CHILD HEALTH QUALITY OF
CARE**

AT BICC

14TH FEBRUARY, 2017

- **Hon Minister of Health, Uganda**
- **Prof Anthony Costello, Director, MCA**
- **WHO Country Representative Dr Eugene Nyarko**
- **The UNICEF Resident Representative,**
- **All delegates from the nine first wave countries in QoC Global Network**
- **Development Partners and UN Agencies**
- **National and international NGOs and CSOs**

- **Representatives from Academic Institutions**
- **Representatives from Regulatory bodies**
- **Representatives from local professional associations; Association of Malawi Midwives (AMAMI), Association of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists, Paediatric and Child Health Association (PACHA)**
- **Officials from the Ministry of Health**
- **Members of the Press, Distinguished Guests**

- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good morning.

On behalf of the Ministry of Health, Malawi and indeed, on behalf of all the First Wave Countries, I welcome you all to this memorable occasion where the Global Network to improve the Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health is being launched.

A special welcome to delegates that have joined us from other

countries to witness the launch, hope you will enjoy your stay in Malawi, the Warm Heart of Africa. I am excited today to join the team of experts gathered here to discuss very important issues on improving quality of care in Mothers, New born and Children.

The launch takes place at an opportune time when we have just moved from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) era

and embarked on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are all aware that not all countries were able to meet the health related MDGs and that the SDGs are focusing on Universal Health Care. Globally, complications related to pregnancy and delivery have

negatively impacted on our health indicators. Despite all the efforts and gains in improving access to health services, capacity building and infrastructure development, women and new born are dying in our facilities. Maternal and neonatal mortality remains unacceptably high especially in resource limited countries, to which, most of the First Wave

Countries belong. Asphyxia and infections in newborns as well as malnutrition-related infections in children contribute highly to the mortality in these age-groups.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as countries we must recognize that extra efforts and resources need to be invested in fast-tracking improvements in quality of care in order to achieve Universal Health Coverage.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I need not remind you that most of the deaths occur due to illnesses that are preventable. It is therefore necessary to implement high impact interventions like: skilled care at delivery, immunizations, and treatment of childhood diseases of diarrhoea, pneumonia and malaria. Countries should make efforts to develop Action Plans that stipulates strategies that address challenges affecting mothers, newborns and children to ensure their survival.

It is also important for countries to network globally, so that best practices to improve quality of care for mothers, newborns and children are shared.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me take this opportunity to thank WHO for the global vision which stipulates that every pregnant woman and newborn receives quality care. Indeed no woman should die in child birth.

It is for this reason that we are here as Governments from the nine first

wave countries, Experts and Partners to join forces to establish a Global network to improve the Quality of Care for mothers, newborns and children.

Ladies and Gentlemen, our aim is to coordinate our efforts and investments so that we reduce mortality and morbidity rates and hit our set targets. Universal Health Coverage demands access to health services that are of high quality. Allow me to remind you that quality is everyone's

responsibility. Therefore, let us do everything, to ensure that Quality of Care receives the highest priority in our national and organisational health strategic plans.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the WHO Quality of Care Assessment and Improvement tool has been developed and offers more knowledge and skills that countries can adapt and use in the implementation of maternal, newborn and child health interventions. Some health workers

were oriented to the Quality of Care Tool, and adapted the tool according to country needs. This is a landmark achievement as countries are also harmonising quality initiative approaches. I am aware that countries are at different levels of implementation of quality of care for Maternal, new born and child health frameworks. This meeting offers a platform for countries to learn from each other and modifying their roadmaps.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this meeting will allow delegates to discuss on and share ideas on further improvements that can be made from the lessons learnt so far. I urge all of us to actively participate as we contribute to this good cause for the country. Having learnt from the MDG era we hope to use Evidence Based Practice in order to ensure that women, newborns, children and adolescents, Survive, Thrive and Transform in this SDG era. Quality improvement is meaningless

without data. Let us focus our energies in improving our data for decision making. Use of Quality data will translate to quality decisions that are evidence-based.

May I take this opportunity to thank WHO, USAID and UNICEF for supporting this launch. We also appreciate all partners who are here with us to support the establishment of the network; we don't take your presence for granted.

With these few remarks it is now my singular honour to declare the Maternal, newborn and child health Quality of care Technical meeting officially opened and I wish us successful deliberations.

I thank you all for your attention and God bless us all.
