

Statement by
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Deliver Now for Women and Children Campaign
22nd APRIL 2008, DAR-ES-SALAAM, TANZANIA

Thank you, Honorable Minister.

Your excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to be back in Dar-es-Salaam, especially after the warm hospitality we received last year during the first Partners' forum.

Much work has been done since then, proof of it is this launch event. Today, is again a very special occasion, the Launch of Deliver Now for Women and Children in Tanzania; and the launch of the National Road Map Strategic Plan to Accelerate Reduction of Maternal, Newborn and Child Deaths in Tanzania, and I would like to thank the organizers for the privilege of being here.

I arrived in Dar-es-Salaam yesterday, directly from Cape Town, after the Countdown to 2015 conference, which reported on the progress in reducing maternal, newborn and child deaths in the 68 priority countries that account for 97% of the global burden.

Tanzania is one of those countries, and it was showcased as a global success story in reducing child mortality. Congratulations to our colleagues here who made it possible. The efforts, however, must continue if the 2015 targets are to be met, and if maternal and newborn mortality, in particular, are to see greater progress.

I am happy to report that Parliamentarians, Ministers and participants at the Countdown Conference closed with a statement of commitment and a global call for an increased investment in Maternal and Child Health.

The Deliver Now for Women + Children campaign is a crucial part of the overall efforts on maternal and child health. Deliver Now is a new global advocacy campaign that joins all partners in demanding action on maternal, newborn and child health.

It was launched as a key part of the Global Campaign for the Health MDGs in New York last September.

The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health acts as coordinator.

I am delighted to see Tanzania take such a strong lead, because the change needs to happen here, at the country level.

I look forward to continue the work with the partners here, and to see great results for the benefit of the people of Tanzania.

I would like to congratulate Mr Kikwete and Mr Stoltenberg for their commitment and inspirational leadership within the "Global Network of Leaders", and particularly for their commitment to Deliver Now for Women and Children.

I hope this joint launch will be inspiration to many other leaders, who want also to show their commitment and make the urgent progress needed for maternal and child health.

Thank you.