

**OPENING REMARKS OF THE UNFPA COUNTRY  
REPRESENTATIVE A.I., ERIKA GOLDSON,  
AT THE LAUNCH OF THE NURSING AND MIDWIFERY  
STRATEGIC PLAN AND SERVICES FRAMEWORK (2019-2023)  
ON 24 OCTOBER 2018, LA-PALM ROYAL BEACH HOTEL, ACCRA**

**Protocol:**

**H.E. Second Lady of the Republic of Ghana, - Mrs Samira Bawumia**

**Honourable Deputy Minister of Health**

**Chief Director and other Senior Government Officials**

**Development Partners - Sector Lead**

**Members of Nursing and Midwives Associations**

**Nursing and Midwifery Leaders/Managers from MoH/GHS**

**Distinguished Invited Guests**

**Friends from the Media**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

- It is my privilege and pleasure on behalf of UNFPA and my Representative to chair this meeting and to participate in the launch of the Nursing and Midwifery Strategic Plan and Services Framework (2019-2023) and the launch of the **#Nursing Now** campaign.
- The launch of the Strategic Plan and the **#Nursing Now** campaign could not have been more opportune. In a country committed to ending preventable maternal deaths and achieving universal health coverage, the role of skilled birth attendants like Midwives and

Nurses in the prevention of maternal morbidities and mortality; and increasing access to Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child, and Adolescent Health (SRMNCAH) services are critical.

- The theme for the occasion *“Nurses and Midwives leading the way towards achievement of Universal Health Coverage”* calls us to recognize that nurses and midwives are at the heart of the Country’s efforts to provide health for all. There is compelling evidence in Ghana that the integration of Nursing and Midwifery functions brings great benefits. The implant insertion task shifting policy adopted in 2013 for example enabled both nurses and midwives to insert implants at service delivery levels as low as the CHPS compounds. This policy together with the CHPS policy are largely credited for eliminating rural-urban disparities in contraceptive use. To date the contraceptive prevalence rate is higher in rural areas than in urban areas in Ghana.
- Let me commend the Government of Ghana for embracing the Midwifery Services Framework (MSF), a framework that puts midwives at the Center of Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child, and Adolescent Health (SRMNCAH) services and enables the midwife to extend her scope of service to ensure universal access to these services. I am gratified that this important framework informed the development of the Nursing and Midwifery Strategic Plan. As we launch this policy document today, I am confident that Ghana is on the right track in the trajectory to reduce maternal mortality.

- Through the *“Invest in Midwifery Programme”*, UNFPA has since 2008 supported the Government of Ghana to strengthen: **The Nursing and Midwifery Regulation, the Midwifery Education, and the Associations.** The Nursing and Midwifery Strategic Plan and Services framework are the outputs of this support. UNFPA in collaboration with USAID/MCSP supported the Ministry of Health to develop this strategy to provide strategic direction in the provision of nursing and midwifery services in Ghana.
- UNFPA is therefore happy to be associated with this document.
- With these remarks, I accept to be the chair of this event.

**Thank you**