**FROM: Member State**

**TO: WHO Country Office in MEMBER STATE**

**REQUEST: Technical and Financial Support for Creating a National Strategic Plan for Surgical Care**

Dear (Specific name and degree, WHO Representative to Country),

We are currently facing significant disparities in healthcare coverage and access to surgical, anesthesia, and obstetric care in (country), due to shortage of trained providers, constrained resources and lack of strategic initiatives to build capacity of these services. Surgery, anesthesia, and obstetric care are critical components of universal health coverage, as recognized in WHA resolution 68.15 and Decision 70.22, and are essential toward health for all as part of Goal 3 of the Sustainable Development Goals – particularly target 3.8 universal health coverage.

Worldwide, 5 billion individuals lack access to safe, timely, and affordable surgical, anesthesia, and obstetric care, yet these conditions account for over a third of the global disease burden; much more so in low- and middle-income countries such as ours.

Surgical, anesthesia, and obstetric service delivery must be scaled up as part of universal health coverage to provide equitable, high quality care. Investing in strengthening surgical, anesthesia, and obstetric service delivery platforms will not only improve the health of our population, but will also strengthen our economy through reduced disability and improved GDP.

We are seeking technical and financial support from the World Health Organization to improve access to surgery, anesthesia, and obstetrics. This lack of adequate access to care, must be addressed as a national strategic initiative to strengthen our workforce, our infrastructure, and access to care for the entire population.

To begin this process, we must first perform a baseline assessment of our national capacity in terms of our workforce, infrastructure, and service utilization, and identify important stakeholders to collaborate in this process. We will also work in partnership with the Ministry of Finance to develop long-term funding solutions, but require some financial support to launch this process.

We thank you for your attention and support for our efforts to combat the significant gap in surgical, anesthesia, and obstetric care coverage, and look forward to working with WHO in this process.

Sincerely,

(Member State delegation/ministry of health members)