WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY, MR LINUS AWUTE
mni, FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH AT THE TECHNICAL SESSION FOR THE
NATIONAL NEWBORN HEALTH CONFERENCE, REIZ HOTEL, ABUJA.

DATE: 23rd OCTOBER, 2014

PROTOCOL

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the Technical Session for the first ever National Newborn Health Conference in Nigeria which has the theme, “Make Every Nigerian Newborn Count: Renew the momentum for newborn survival”.

2. It is no delight to say that with a population of 170 million inhabitants our country records the highest number of Newborn deaths in Africa. Annually, an estimated 250,000 babies die in the first month of life as a result of preventable and treatable conditions, which include Asphyxia, Infection and Preterm delivery. However through Government and stakeholders’ effort, appreciable progress has been made in addressing under-five mortality, but Newborn deaths still account for about 32% of our under-five mortality.

3. Key interventions exist but coverage is very low. If the available interventions are well practiced, 70% of these preventable deaths could be averted. All that is needed is stronger commitment at all levels to increase the coverage and quality of life-saving interventions for newborn health.

4. I will make bold to say that this conference will, to a great extent, shift the direction of decision-making and policy enactment to enhance pragmatic attention to newborn survival.

5. Permit me to appreciate the commitments of every organizations towards the hosting of the first newborn conference in Nigeria.

6. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, once again, you are welcome to this technical session of the Newborn Conference.

Thank you