Canada’s statement # 2 (May 29)

143rd EB item 4.1 WHO Reform

Like many who have spoken, in Canada’s view it is more than time to be courageous and ambitious with respect to WHO reform.

Canada agrees with the low hanging fruit in Part 1. We welcome your suggestion, Madame Chair, to move 3 c) on paperless meetings to Part 1. We also appreciate your second suggestion to reflect the amendments suggested by Germany and the United States concerning 3 a) and b). Canada agrees that costs is not the only key factor in considering resolutions, that achieving health equity, may require looking beyond costs. That said, resource implications are absolutely crucial in considering resolutions, especially for resolutions that expand the mandate of WHO. Given the ambitious nature of the 13th General Programme of Work, we will need to make well, or better, informed decisions.

Like Germany, we believe part 3 a) and b) is not a question of whether the Secretariat should do this; Canada wishes to request that the Secretariat provides this to the EB at the 144th session, or in time to inform an intersessional consultation process, should one be established.

Regarding part 4, we believe that c) and d) could be included in Part 2. With respect to d) on Framework of Engagement with non-States actors, it seems to Canada as being a logical result of our adoption of FENSA that the language of this strategic document now be reflected in the Rules of Procedure of the EB and the Health Assembly.

We agree with Australia and others who raised concern with Part 1 b) considering the Officers of the Board. We believe that formal expansion of the Bureau’s mandate and procedures requires further discussion.

Thank you Chair.