

## **REGIONAL STATEMENT BY GHANA ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN REGION ON AGENDA ITEMS 19.1, 19.2, 19.4 AND 19.5**

**Item 19.1 Financing and implementation of the Programme budget 2020–2021 and outlook on financing of the Programme budget 2022–2023;**

**Item 19.2 Programme budget 2022–2023: Revisions;**

**Item 19.4. Scale of assessments 2022–2023;**

**19.5 Status of collection of assessed contributions, including Member States in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent that would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution in respect of 2020 (document EB/150/32).**

---

Thank you chair for the opportunity to make this statement on behalf of the 47 Member States of the Africa Region.

2. We thank the Secretariat for the good report, detailing the overall status of the financing and implementation of Programme Budget 2020–2021 and outlook on financing for Programme Budget 2022-2023.

3. We welcome the improvement in financing levels for all 4 budget segments of the PB2020-2021, especially, the impressive funding provided for Emergency operations and appeals, and the noticeable improvement in flexible funding.

4. We however note with concern, the persistence of uneven distribution of funding across the strategic priorities of the Base segment, especially the low funding provided for programmes under strategic

priority 3 (One billion more people enjoying better health and well-being), which continues to be the least funded.

5. We note further that while Head Quarters (HQ) and one Regional Office were over-funded, other Regional Offices, including Africa remained under-funded, a situation the report attributes to the over-reliance on highly earmarked voluntary contributions.

6. We welcome the steps the Secretariat is taking to address these challenges, through initiatives such as the “Contributor Engagement Management system” software and the “Global Resources Allocation Committee”, which has made some recommendations to address the imbalance in the distribution of funds to the various levels of the organisation. We hope these recommendations will be implemented quickly, with particular attention to addressing the protracted imbalance between HQ and other major offices.

7. On outlook for financing Programme Budget 2022-2023, we note with concern, WHO’s continued reliance on Voluntary Contributions (VCs), from which more than three-quarters of the funding for the current budget is expected. This situation is a hindrance to long term planning and a major risk to the credibility and independence of the organisation. The need for consensus among Member States on increasing the Assessed Contributions through a step-wise process, as recommended by the WGSF has never been more urgent.

8. We further request the secretariat to include “Utilization” in addition to “implementation” when reporting on Programme Budget implementation, as document EB150/27 suggests that the former is a more

useful indicator for reporting on the financing and implementation of the programme budget.

10. We support the proposed revisions to PB2022-2023; welcoming the upward revisions for allocation to programmes in Strategic priority 2 and outcomes 4.1 and 4.2 of pillar 4, with a special allocation to Preventing and Responding to Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PRSEAH), and noting that more comprehensive changes are being worked on to incorporate programmes in other strategic priorities, for presentation to WHA75.

11. We support the extension of the 13<sup>th</sup> General Programme of Work (GPW13) by two years and the consequent upward revision in budgetary allocation to allow for intensifying investments to support countries recover from Covid-19 and accelerate progress towards the triple billion targets and the SDGs.

12. We hope that the proposed revisions would result in at least 80% of the total base budget allocated to countries, as recommended by the Global Resources Allocation Committee, while remaining consistent with the WHA's decision on Strategic Budget Space Allocation, which requests the DG to ensure that resources are not allocated away from countries and regions with the greatest need.

13. We support the adoption of the scale of assessment as proposed, recognising that the UN General Assembly has recently amended the UN scale of assessments for the three-year period 2022–2024, and noting that the proposal is consistent with WHO's financial regulations.

14. On the **status of collection of assessed contributions**, it is a great concern to our region that some of our Member States have not been able to pay their contributions to the point that their voting privileges have been suspended under article 7. While encouraging these Member States to make arrangements to settle their dues, we are mindful of the economic challenges many countries find themselves in, which have been compounded by the Covid-19 pandemic. We therefore call on the secretariat to engage with defaulting Member States, beyond just writing reminders, with the view to understanding their peculiar challenges and providing customised support to enable them meet their obligations.

15. Thank you for your kind attention.