AGENDA ITEM #11.4: Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

KEY MESSAGES
Thank you Chair

Canada welcomes the report.

We agree that despite remarkable progress in some areas, much work remains. This includes proactive protection of gains made, to prevent backsliding.

For example, stalled progress on malaria and drug-resistant tuberculosis highlights the continued importance of a strong Global Fund and Canada looks forward to a successful replenishment in 2019. Uneven implementation of the WHO’s Framework Convention on Tobacco Control is another example of important unfinished work which Canada continues to prioritize alongside our global partners. Continued action to address environmental determinants, including climate change; air, water, and soil pollution; and hazardous chemicals will be critical as well.

Addressing gender inequalities and empowering women and girls is central to Canada’s Feminist International Assistance Policy, and critical to Agenda 2030’s commitment to “leave no one behind.” Protecting the health and rights of women and girls, including their sexual and reproductive health and rights, is critical for realizing Agenda 2030.

Canada wishes to emphasize that healthy and empowered adolescents are key for sustainable development and achieving the SDGs. Adolescents are poorly understood and largely underserved. This is why we urgently need sex and age-disaggregated data, and a robust research agenda on adolescent health.

We must also not forget that mental health and wellbeing is a pre-condition for achieving many of the health-related SDGs. We need to raise mental health to the same importance as physical health.

We welcome WHO’s leadership role in facilitating the SDG 3 Action Plan which we see as an opportunity to strengthen collaboration and coherence amongst global
health actors. We expect the plan to lead to ambitious, concrete, collective deliverables at the country level which lead to more impactful support for national priorities.