Thank you Chair.

Canada welcomes WHO’s commitments to integrate equity, gender equality and human rights across the program areas as articulated in Programme Budget 2020-21 and the Results Framework output 4.2.6.

This will requires strong and visible senior management commitment, adequate resourcing, and engagement and accountability across all three levels of the organization.

We welcome the elevation of the Gender Equity and Rights function to the Director General’s Office but underscore the importance of ensuring a strong linkage to the program areas.

We strongly endorse the integration of gender, equity and rights as an assessment parameter in the Balance Scorecard Approach and note that this will require additional human and financial resources, including for capacity building across the three levels of the organization.

We would welcome the Secretariat’s feedback on its plans to advance UN SWAP 2.0 standards related to establishing a financial benchmark for gender equality work and tracking financial resources allocated to gender equality work.