Thank you Chair,

Equitable access to quality and affordable medicines, vaccines and other medical technologies is central to the achievement of universal health coverage. This depends on affordable, fair and transparent pricing, and effective and sustainable financing.

Malta considers that this draft resolution proposes initiatives which will ultimately improve access to medicines, vaccines and other health products for patients, as well as supporting the sustainability of national health systems.

Having a small market, with all the consequent challenges, such initiatives are of specific significance to Malta. However the challenge of a small market volume can be relevant to different countries particularly for medicines with very limited indications.

Sharing of transparent information which supports decision-making is a basic requirement. Malta believes that collaboration between countries is one of the pillars for strategies for increasing access to affordable and equitable medicines for citizens.

We appreciate the collaboration and engagement of MS in the development of this resolution as the drafting group worked effortlessly to reach a consensus text. We thank Italy for their leadership on this, and are pleased to be listed as cosponsors of this resolution.

Thank you Madam chair