Chairperson, thank you for according Zambia an opportunity to contribute towards the discussion based on the report of the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Emergencies Programme aligns itself with the Regional Statement made by Cameroon.

We acknowledge the progress that the IOAC has made in carrying out its mandate. Clearly, progress has been evidenced in the response towards the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where coordination efforts at the International, Regional and Country levels have been commendable. We however note with concern the declining trend of the EVD in DRC has been reversed with the Ebola virus spreading southwards towards the borders with Zambia. We note the challenges that WHO is experiencing in dealing with acute outbreaks on a large scale.

We therefore appeal to the secretariat and fellow member states as well as other stakeholders to continue supporting the response. We also conquer with the IOAC recommendation that WHO should further leverage partners on the ground and develop a policy for surge capacity to authorize the release of technical expertise within the Organization at all levels. We also appeal to secretariat to use relationships fostered especially in Africa such as those with Africa Centers for Diseases Control, Red Cross and Medicine sans frontier to better improve outcomes.

Chairperson, in conclusion I wish to indicate that Zambia strongly supports all the recommendations in the report of the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme and pledges full support to the implementation of the programmes as outlined.

Thank you.