STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA ON AGENDA ITEM 11.4: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Thank you Chairperson for giving Zambia an opportunity to contribute to this agenda item. Zambia aligns itself with the statement made by Liberia on this agenda item.

While remarkable progress has been made in some areas towards attainment of the health-related SDGs, major challenges still remain:

- Inequalities in access to quality high care which still result in unacceptably high Maternal Mortality Rates and children still face the threat from vaccinepreventable diseases due to limited coverage of immunization services in some of our countries
- Access to safe water and sanitation are still a challenge in some of our countries; and recently we have seen a resurgence of water-borne diseases such as cholera
- The average national percentage of total government expenditure devoted to health was 9.9% in 2015, with the Africa Region around 6.9% on average.

Chairperson, the fact that the SDGs are integrated and indivisible assures countries that determinants of health will be addressed holistically and not in silos. This makes it necessary to adopt a multisectoral approach to development planning and Zambia has adopted health in all policies as a means to attaining this.

As we note the report, we wish to commend the Secretariat for basing the Thirteenth General Programme of Work on the Sustainable Development Goals. Its three strategic priorities – universal health coverage, health security and improved health and well-being – encapsulate each of the health-related targets encompassed by Goal 3 and are accompanied by an impact framework to enable WHO to measure progress and remain focused on outcomes rather than outputs. We are optimistic that with the support from the Secretariat and all stakeholders, we will overcome some of the challenges we face.

I thank you.