



## **STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA ON COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS DELIVERING PHC: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES**

Thank you Chairperson, Zambia aligns itself with the statement made by Lesotho and appreciates the work of the secretariat in producing the comprehensive report on this agenda item.

Chairperson, Zambia is cognisant of the role Community Health Workers play in driving UHC agenda. Community Health Workers make it possible for the involvement of the communities in taking responsibility of their own health, and is therefore key to the entire continuum of care, including response to public health emergencies and the overall achievement of the SDGs

Zambia recognises challenges facing community health workers' program such as the unclear roles; lack of education and career pathways; fragmented, disease-specific training; donor-driven management and funding; inadequate coordination, and supervision and lack of recognition of the contribution of community health workers. We therefore welcome the community health worker guidelines produced by WHO and implore the Secretariat to support country specific initiatives and definitions of roles and responsibilities for CHWs.

Zambia supports the call by WHO for countries to plan for the formal integration of community health workers into national health systems in order to ensure the appropriate policy, accreditation and regulatory frameworks and environment to maximize their contributions.

I thank you