



STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA ON AGENDA ITEM 11.5: PRIMARY HEALTH CARE TOWARDS UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

Thank you Chairperson for this opportunity to make a statement on this agenda item, Zambia aligns itself with the statement made by Rwanda on behalf of the Africa Region.

We wish to reaffirm our commitment to the Astana declaration and subscribe to the tenets of Primary Health Care as a means through which attainment of UHC is possible. Zambia's vision is to attain universal access to cost-effective, quality health services and has accordingly been taking measures to achieve this, including the abolition of user fees in all the districts; construction and renovation of health facilities across the country; investments in medical equipment and transport; scaling up of outreach health services; and health promotion and education.

Zambia commends Member States for reaching a consensus that the health and well-being of populations is most effectively, equitably and efficiently achieved through the Primary Health Care approach, making it a cornerstone of a sustainable health system for universal health coverage and the health-related Sustainable Development Goals.

We join other Member States in recognising that elements of Primary Health Care need to be updated in order to respond adequately to on-going and new health and health system challenges, as well as to take advantage of new resources and opportunities for success in the 21st century. With its emphasis on promotion and prevention, addressing determinants and a people-centred approach, primary health care has proven to be a highly effective and efficient way to address the main causes of, and risk factors for, poor health, as well as for handling the emerging challenges that may threaten health in the future.

Zambia will continue to place primary health care at the centre of efforts to achieve "healthy lives and well-being for all at all ages". We would like to commend WHO for its commitment in helping governments progress towards universal health coverage (UHC) through health financing reforms. Zambia notes the report of the Director General. **I thank you**