STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA ON AGENDA ITEM 11.8 FOLLOW-UP TO THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON HEALTH RELATED ISSUES: ENDING TUBERCULOSIS

Chairperson, Zambia is honoured to make a statement and supports the statement made by Nigeria on behalf of the Africa Region.

The United Nations High-Level Meeting on Tb held in 2018 provided the necessary thrust needed to accelerate progress in the fight against TB, and we are in full support of its resolutions.

As a country, we have made significant progress in tackling the TB epidemic, and have reduced the TB incidence rate by over 50%, from 759/100,000 population in 2000 to 361/100,000 population in 2017. In addition, the proportion of TB patients successfully treated has been over 85% in the last decade, reaching 90% in 2018 – for which we are grateful to various partners, for their support.

Despite the progress made, TB remains one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in Zambia, and our country remains one of the 30 high TB and TB/HIV burden countries in the World.

In an effort to improve, Zambia has developed a road map to attaining the UN High Level Meeting targets. We are also making steady progress in expanding access to a network of the WHO approved rapid TB diagnostic tools such as GeneXpert and Urine LAM.

However, we face challenges in tackling the emerging problem of drug resistant TB, and the number of children reached is still unacceptably low. Access to new and better medication is also a big challenge.

Therefore, as we note the report, and call upon the Secretariat, and other stakeholders, for increased support in this regard.

Thank you