THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA STATEMENT ON AGENDA ITEM 11.8 – FOLLOW-UP TO THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON HEALTH-RELATED ISSUES ON PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Chairperson, The Republic of Zambia is happy to make a statement on agenda item No 11.8. We are in support of the statement made by Mauritius on behalf of the Africa Region.

Zambia commends secretariat for the preparatory process and the successful hosting of the third high-level meeting on non-communicable diseases. We recognize that the level of progress and investment to date is insufficient to meet 3.4 of SDGs and we commit to fulfil the promises on implementing at all levels, measures to reduce the risk of premature death and disability from non-communicable diseases.

By placing special focus on preventing the rapid rise of NCDs, future treatment costs to the health sector will be reduced. Emphasis will be on development of policies to guide interventions for NCDs whilst enhancing community education and awareness as well as prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of NCDs.

Zambia after having chaired the first multi-stakeholder panel reiterates that scaling up multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral responses for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases is key in achieving the SDGs because NCDs result in high economic costs, reaching far beyond direct health care sector. We therefore appeal to member states to involve all stakeholders in the implementation of plans in the prevention and control of NCDs.

We are pleased to note the 14 additional new commitments by Heads of State and Governments and the broadened scope of commitments to include reducing air pollution and promoting mental health and well-being, as this will help in moving the agenda on prevention and control of NCDs forward. We appeal to secretariat to provide support to member states in realizing their commitment to accelerate their response over the next 3-5 years to address NCDs and look forward to the report on the progress achieved by the end of 2024 in preparation for the fourth high-level meeting in 2025.
Zambia supports the adoption of the draft decision recommended by the EB.