STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA ON AGENDA ITEM 12.3 ON HUMAN RESOURCES FOR HEALTH

Thank you, Chairperson, for this opportunity to comment on the agenda item 12.3 and Zambia aligns itself with the regional statement made by Benin.

As we note the reports, we wish to make the following observations: the theme for this year’s Health Assembly centers around Universal Health Coverage - there can be no UHC without addressing HRH.

Zambia faces the dilemma on the need for strengthened HRH to internationally approved standards, on one hand, while on the other hand, retaining HRH to provide the labour required, bearing in mind the need to incentivise them to their expectations so that they willingly stay and do not leave for greener pastures. In addition there is need for a balance between having skilled labour and less skilled labour, including Community Volunteers, for the purpose of retaining them in the areas of need, but mindful of the need not to compromise the quality and skills needed to meet objectives.

We acknowledge the progress made in accelerating the efforts to ensure that evidence based policies form the backbone for the optimal utilisation of the workforce and we hope that these frameworks will address the current gaps in policies hampering the drive towards universal health coverage.

Zambia therefore welcomes the reports and seeks support from the Secretariat and other stakeholders, in leveraging the technical cooperation and support with regard to enhancing workforce productivity and workload indicators to inform policies on training and deployment in our country.

I thank you