THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA STATEMENT ON AGENDA 12.5 PATIENT SAFETY - WATER, SANITATION, HYGIENE IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES FOR THE SEVENTY SECOND WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

Thank you, Chairperson, Zambia aligns itself to the statement made by Congo on this agenda item on behalf of the Africa Region.

Zambia, like other lower middle-income countries, has a burden of inadequate water and sanitation supply. As noted in the report, in health care facilities, this poses a great risk to the lives of patients and staff from water- and sanitation-related diseases, including cholera and typhoid as well as other nosocomial infections.

In order to resolve this, the Government of the Republic of Zambia has engaged various partners.

Working with the Secretariat and other partners, Zambia has developed the Minimum Standards for Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and the Quality Improvement Standards aimed at system strengthening in health facilities. In addition, the country has also integrated WASH indicators in the Health Management Information System (HMIS) for health system performance and in the District Health Information System (DHIS) tool.

Noting the importance of multisectoral mechanisms, the Government through the Ministry of Health has developed a Health in All Policy strategic framework that brings on board all key Institutions in addressing health impacts arising from the implementation of policies, and allows for the establishment of a strong partnership with WASH stakeholders and serve as a platform for resource mobilization.

Chairperson, these require resources. As we note the report, we call for increased investment by all stakeholders, as well as continued technical support to enhance the realisation of SDG 3 and SDG 6. We also call for the adoption of the draft resolution recommended by the Executive Board in resolution EB144.R5

Thank you Chair