THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA STATEMENT ON AGENDA 12.8 ON GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR WOMEN’S, CHILDREN’S AND ADOLESCENTS’ HEALTH (2016–2030)

Thank you, Chairperson, Zambia aligns itself to the statement made by Botswana on this agenda item on behalf of the Africa Region. As Zambia notes the DG’s report, we wish to highlight the following:

The progress made in improving women’s, children’s and adolescents’ health is remarkable. However, the discrepancy between the best performing Region and the least, which is our Region, is an indication of the inequalities that still exist in our world today. Our country, for instance, has made significant improvements in some of its indicators. However, the pace has been slow and there is a lot to be done, particularly in ensuring quality of services being delivered. We therefore, appeal for support in this regard.

While the Secretariat has highlighted the influence of culture and religion on delivery of services in some of our countries, we implore that the focus be placed on the general goodwill, rather than look at them as obstacles. That way, we can leverage on enhancing the more locally acceptable methods for improved outcomes.

We are happy with strides made in adolescent health, and have equally put measures to improve the health service delivery in this age group. We however continue to note the lack of global targets, and thus appeal to the Secretariat to have these developed in order to track any progress that is being made.

Zambia continues to lose hundreds of babies to preventable diseases such as syphilis. While we acknowledge the efforts by Secretariat to ensure dual elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV and syphilis, implementation is hindered by lack of access to test kits. Therefore, we wish to earnestly appeal to stakeholders to look into such issues if we are to attain universal health coverage, leaving no one behind.
Thank you Chair