STATEMENT BY ZAMBIA ON AGENDA ITEM 18.2 MULTILINGUALISM

Zambia commend secretariat for the excellent report on multilingualism developed in response to the Seventy-first World Health Assembly adopted resolution WHA71.15. Zambia aligns itself with the Regional Statement on this agenda item by Central African Republic. The report has succeeded in providing information on previous practices, possible technical options and solutions, including cost-effective, innovative measures to enhance equality among languages and to ensure availability of the essential technical information of the Organization and WHO guidelines, whether in written, audio-visual or digital form in the six official languages.

We note that English is the source language for most publications, however, translations are produced as and when funding permits and WHO grants translation rights to external publishers. Zambia commends secretariat for putting in place measures to ensure respect for equality among the official languages of WHO which include:

- Offering WHO an online distance learning language programme in the official languages
- Contracting interpreters for meetings in line with the United Nations system-wide agreement with the International Association of Conference Interpreters
- Providing governing bodies documentation and records in the official languages
- Standardizing and translating all vacancy notices;
- Ensuring that all WHO guidelines have, as a minimum, a summary of recommendations available in all official languages at the time of publication;
- Under taking joint publishing and collaboration with external institutions to expand the availability and accessibility of WHO publications in appropriate languages.
Zambia has confidence that these measures will go a long way in ensuring respect for equality among the official languages of WHO and accordingly WHA to note this report and to provide guidance on next steps.