Chairperson,

Zambia adopted the resolution WHA70.13, on prevention of deafness and hearing loss at the World Health Assembly in 2017. This resolution called upon WHO and its Member States to develop public health strategies to make ear and hearing care accessible for all.

In a bid to implement this resolution, Zambia launched the first ever National Ear, Nose and Throat Health Strategic Plan (NENTHSP) 2017-2021, which outlines the strategic direction for Ear and Hearing services over the next five (5) years. The NENTHSP provides strategies on service delivery aimed at addressing hearing impairment in Zambia.

The plan has now entered its second year of implementation and has achieved the following:

i) The establishment of audiology clinics in public hospitals and outreach programs in the community for easy accessibility of Ear and Hearing services to the public.

ii) Ear and hearing care integration within the framework of their primary health care systems through;

a) Training of first level health workers using the World Health Organization, \textit{Primary Ear and Hearing Care Training Resource Set}.

b) Improved vaccination coverage against rubella, measles, mumps and meningitis at 92%.

iii) Through collaborations with partners, development of training programs of various cadres in the field of audiology, speech therapy and Ear Nose and Throat surgery are having advanced.
iv) Introduction of non-ototoxic alternative drugs in the treatment of Multidrug Resistant Tuberculosis has been done at a national level to prevent drug induced hearing loss. Through consultations with various stakeholders, Government through the Ministry of Health plans to address regulations for the control of noise in occupational settings, at entertainment venues and through personal audio systems.

As we note the report, Zambia requests that secretariat continues to provide technical, financial and material support.

Thank you