STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA ON AGENDA ITEM 21.3
PROGRESS ON THE ROLE OF THE HEALTH SECTOR IN THE STRATEGIC
APPROACH TO THE INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS
TOWARDS 2020 AND BEYOND.

Thank you Chairperson for giving Zambia an opportunity to contribute to this
agenda item. Zambia aligns itself with the statement made by Equatorial Guinea on
behalf of the African member states

It's gratifying to note that secretariat finally established the WHO Global
Chemicals and Health network. In addition tools have been mutually
developed to support implementation of the roadmap at country level. The
provision of guidance on chemical releases triggered by natural hazard events
is commendable particularly with the increasing effects of climate change we
are witnessing today.

Zambia is participating in a number of projects in the region which includes;
chemical observatory addressing chemical data systems, Assessing highly
hazardous pesticides and elimination of lead from paint. Zambia is also part
of a three country project of reducing unintended persistent organic
pollutants (UPOPs) and mercury releases from health care facilities.

However, it's regrettable that to date we do not know the Full burden of
disease attributable to chemicals as data is only available for a small number
of chemical exposures. Despite the unintentional poisonings causing so many
deaths only 46% of member states had a poisons centre as at 2017.

We urge secretariat to commission the work to ascertain the full disease
burden from chemical exposure as detailed in the roadmap, support member
states to establish poisons centres and speed up development of guidelines on
strategic planning for implementation of the health related articles of the
Minimata convention.

I thank you.