STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA ON AGENDA ITEM 21.3: PROGRESS ON REGULATORY SYSTEM STRENGTHENING FOR MEDICAL PRODUCTS.

Chairperson, thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this agenda item and wish to commend secretariat for the report. Zambia aligns itself to the statement made by Sierra Leone on behalf of the 47 member states of the African Region.

We are delighted that finally the work on the unified global benchmarking tool for assessing medicine and vaccine regulatory programs has been completed. We urge WHO to expedite the implementation of the system which will see accreditation of regulatory authorities.

The on-going establishment of centres of excellence and development of tools for prioritization, monitoring and evaluation of regulatory systems is commendable.

We note with gratitude the ongoing development and approval of various guidelines by the WHO expert committees. We urge secretariat to accelerate dissemination of these guidelines and to complete the work on the national registration of prequalified diagnostics. We look forward to the results of the commissioned study on the public health and socioeconomic impact of substandard and falsified medical products.

To strengthen the regulation systems for medical products, Zambia recently reviewed its medicines legislation to make it more responsive and is currently constructing its national drug quality control laboratory which is expected to be completed in 2020.

We request secretariat to strengthen its capacity in this area to be able to provide effective and efficient technical support to member states.

I thank you.