STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA ON AGENDA ITEM 21.3: PROGRESS ON TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

Thank you Chairperson for according Zambia an opportunity to make a statement on this agenda item, and wish to thank the Secretariat for a well-articulated report. Zambia aligns itself with the statement made by Burkina Faso on this agenda item.

Chairperson, attainment of universal health coverage will remain a pipedream if traditional, complementary and alternative medicine is not integrated into our health care systems across the continuum of care.

We note with appreciation the increase in the number of countries with legal and regulatory frameworks for traditional and complementary medicine from 40% in 2012 to 56% in 2018 and the significant improvement in the Infrastructure governance of traditional and complementary medicine at country level.

The report of 23% of member states covering traditional and complementary medicine under health insurance is a positive revelation. We are further delighted by the inclusion of traditional medicine in the Eleventh Revised International Statistical Classification of Diseases.

We commend WHO for promoting Interregional and regional networks on traditional, complementary and integrative medicine, though more needs to be done particularly in the AFRO region.

We urge secretariat to hasten the conclusion of the work on the development of technical documents, international terminologies and tools to guide Member States and stakeholders on the delivery of quality traditional, complementary and integrative medicine services.

Zambia has developed its Traditional, Complementary and alternative medicine bill and looks forward to surge support and guidance from WHO and various partners as we move this agenda forward.

I thank you.