Statement:

Thank you, Madam Chair,

With reference to the document under review, Suriname underlines the importance of community health workers delivering primary health care as indeed an opportunity but knows challenges. To maximize the opportunity and to handle the challenges in an adequate way we applaud the guidance given by the WHO to ensure the inclusion of key principles to inform design of community health workers.

Even though the majority of the population in Suriname lives in the coastal area, there are a number of communities in the hinterlands in Suriname with different culture practices and beliefs. We believe that when community health care workers are part of the primary health care response, they will be able to ensure that cultural practices and beliefs are considered and understood in the provision of care to members of their communities.

We applaud the fact that the WHO underlines the importance of a more sustainable and responsive skills mix in order to address population needs for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and universal health coverage.

Furthermore, we agree with the principle set forward that policy makers and managers should have a willingness to share data transparently on the characteristics of community health workers and their performance as well as information on programme implementation and effectiveness but would like to suggest that as part of our health response we should ensure that communities are informed about the outcomes of program implemented in a way that is understandable in their context.

Madam. Chair, Suriname supports the adoption of the draft resolution recommended by the Executive Board in resolution A72/13.

Thank you, chair.