

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



STATEMENT BY HON. NASSOR MAZRUI, MINISTER FOR HEALTH ZANZIBAR, DELIVERED AT THE 76th WHA, IN RESPONSE TO THE SPEECH BY THE WHO DIRECTOR GENERAL, DELIVERED ON 23RD MAY 2023

(Agenda Item 3)

[Document A76/3]

- 1. Chairperson,** The United Republic of Tanzania commends WHO for the excellent preparation of the 76th World Health Assembly and further appreciates the continued support given to member states.
- 2. Chairperson,** we are cognizant of the unprecedented times the world went through during COVID-19 pandemic. The social, economic and health consequences will take many years to stabilize. Yet, we commend and congratulate the Director General for his brilliant leadership in coordinating efforts to improve pandemic preparedness and response. Tanzania's response through ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 vaccination has led to **51% coverage** of the population and **100%** of the targeted population of 18 years and above. We look forward to sustaining the gains.
- 3. Chairperson,** we believe that individual countries' experiences including challenges faced in the context of COVID-19 will contribute much to the ongoing discussion on the amendments of the International Health Regulation-2005 and establishment of convention/pandemic treaty/agreements.
- 4. Chairperson,** there are issues that are of key importance to Tanzania, such as improving Primary Health care including maternal and child Health; addressing the rising burden of Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health issues; improving access to Rehabilitative services; ending HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria and other infectious diseases of Public Health Concern; as well as child and adolescent nutrition. Furthermore, we recommend strengthening capacity to member states on local production of health commodities including vaccine development. We are positive that the 76th World Health Assembly will make fruitful deliberations on these issues for the benefit of all and **we welcome Director General's report.**

Thank you, Chairperson.