



Statement by the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia on Agenda item 3.1:
Draft General Program of Work 2019 – 2023

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia aligns itself with the statement made by Algeria on behalf of the African Region.

Ethiopia would like to express sincere appreciation to the Director General and the WHO secretariat for the development of a comprehensive and holistic Draft general Program of Work for the years 2019 – 2023. We noted that the secretariat has carefully listened and systematically addressed the concerns of member states throughout the intensive consultation process on the GPW.

Ethiopia found the draft 13th General Program of Work suitable and visionary document that can help the organization advance its role as a Global Health leader. Furthermore, we believe that the draft 13th GPW, with its extensive focus on Universal Health Coverage and through its view considering health as a wider socio economic and political agenda, will help to keep Global Health placed at the centre during the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. We noted that the GPW aims to shift WHO's strategic focus towards building the capacity at country level. Ethiopia supports these strategic and organizational shifts proposed in the GPW and believes it will benefit member states.

The Government of Ethiopia is, and continues to be an advocate of Primary Health Care. The public health policy in Ethiopia is formulated based on fundamental principles focusing on prevention and health promotion. In the past two decades, Ethiopia has progressed significantly in terms of availing Primary Health Care to all segments of the population through an innovative community based system. This year, marking the 40th anniversary of the Alma Ata Declaration on Primary Health Care for all, Ethiopia appreciates the draft GPW 13 for its emphasis on the need for Primary Health Care as a vehicle to achieve UHC.

Sharing the vision of the 13th General program of work Ethiopia would like to call the Director General attention to the following points

1. Ethiopia and all countries in the African Region, are carrying the highest burden of communicable diseases coupled with growing burden of NCDs and injuries. We would like strategies and initiatives to focus on building strong and resilient health systems considering all components of health system building blocks and with a special focus on Health Workforce.
2. The implementation of 13th General Program of Work, should promote the Secretariats important role in terms of supporting developing countries such as Ethiopia, to benefit from the flexibilities provided by the TRIPS agreement and Doha Declaration, and building countries local production capacity to ensure access to essential medicines and vaccines.
3. To expand the geographic focus of the strategies on the impact of climate change on health in a way that it addresses the growing health and nutrition concerns of countries vulnerable to extreme drought caused by climate change.

In conclusion, the federal democratic Republic of Ethiopia calls Executive Board to adopt the draft GPW 13.

Thank you