

142nd SESSION EXECUTIVE BOARD

SPEAKING NOTES ON AGENDA ITEM 3.1

Draft Thirteenth General Programme of Work 2019–2023

CHAIR,

Jamaica wishes to commend the Director General and the Secretariat team for the work done on preparing the Draft thirteenth general programme of work 2019–2023 (GPW 13). The document has clearly outlined that the GPW 13 was developed, using a collaborative approach that engaged Member States (including Jamaica), Regional Directors, WHO Country Representatives and other stakeholders. The report also noted that the GPW 13 outlines the WHO's strategic direction for the next five years, how the Organization will proceed with its implementation and indicates a framework to measure progress. It also indicated that the GPW 13 was based on the SDGs and will serve as the basis for resource mobilization and for the programme budgets for the bienniums 2020–2021 and 2022–2023.

Jamaica also:

- Looks forward to further clarification/information on when the detailed plan and budget will be developed to guide the implementation of the GPW13.
- Endorses the impact and output focus of the GPW13 and resultant need for the transformation of operations of the WHO to make it more efficient and effective BUT would caution that organizational change can be disruptive and recommends that an effective change management programme be considered.
- Notes that increased domestic investment in health may require the mobilization or reorientation of domestic resources, which may be challenging for some Member States that are experiencing low/slow economic growth or pursuing a structural adjustment programme.
- Commends the Government of Ireland and the WHO for the successful hosting of the 4th Global Forum on Human Resources for Health. Jamaica is of the view that a steady supply of skilled human resources in certain sectors of the health care system is a critical component of the attainment of Universal Health Coverage as well as the successful implementation of this GPW. In this vein, we reiterate the call for the WHO to continue to advocate at all levels for all parties to adhere to the "WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel and that the issue be given priority placement on the International Health Agenda. For its part, Jamaica will work to ensure that the momentum gained, over the past year is not lost.

In conclusion, Jamaica looks forward to a robust discussion here today, and to collaboratively implementing and operationalizing the GPW13.