Madam Chair,

Sri Lanka acknowledges the importance of this agenda item and welcomes the document by DG / WHO on Neglected Tropical Diseases. I wish to restate that it remains a public health problem that affects population left furthest behind by development in most vulnerable countries and communities and note the director Generals report on it.

The devastating human, social and economic burden worldwide due to neglected Tropical disease is also a critical public problem in our region. As a country we face a significant problem relating to Dengue and Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever resulting in outbreaks with high case load and high direct costs to the governments.

Targeted programs of control, elimination and eradication on neglected tropical diseases in line with global and regional dimensions of universal health coverage is the way forward. Therefore, programs need to be targeted to population to be provided services, maintaining the equity to make available same services throughout the country for early case detection, response practices, including availability of specialists, investigation facilities, and treatment services.

Allocating adequate funding for the programme, early case detection, improving testing facilities, awareness and improving treatment facilities for early detected cases are some stringent measures implemented to maintain the status of Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis by Sri Lanka. This may also be applicable for controlling other Neglected Tropical Diseases.

Concerted efforts are needed relating in many aspects including development of new inventions, medicines tools and diagnostics such as novel vector control tools. My country hopes to strengthen efforts to control Neglected Tropical diseases.

Finally Sri Lanka too supports the draft decision on Neglected Tropical Diseases and wishes to co-sponsor the same. Also welcomes UAE’s request to establish 30 January as a day dedicated to neglected tropical diseases.

Thank you.