Honourable chair,

Distinguished delegates,

Excellencies,

The epidemiological profile of Sudan is complex; this year alone the country dealt with 6 different outbreaks, ranging from vaccine preventable diseases such as Diphtheria to waterborne epidemics-Cholera- and not ending with Dengue and Chikungunya.

Epidemics and emergencies are a real threat for an already burdened health system. The situation is further complicated by the continuous man-made and natural disasters such as floods. Moreover, the local economy is struggling which negatively affects access to and delivery of health services.

Due to the complexity of the situation, all hazards approach is the only approach that should be taken to increase the health system resilience, and to build the core capacities to ensure proper preparedness and response to various public health emergencies.

There are common challenges that impact the preparedness and response to public health emergencies in the country, most notably fragmentation of health information systems which hinders the delivery of effective interventions.

Adopting the strategy for Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response: 2020–2030 will improve PHEPR and will enable member countries to strengthen their community resilience, and enhance risk mitigation measures. However, the introduction of the strategy should be coupled by intensive capacity building and resource mobilization.

Unifying the channels of reporting and integrating the IDSR into the national health information system is key to ensure early detection and timely response to all hazards. To ensure the functionality and
sustainability of the IDSR, strengthening the IDSR must be done within the overall effort of strengthening the health system to achieve “One Health” goal.

Another challenge is vector-borne diseases; Sudan like many other countries is hit hard by vector-borne diseases, hence, Sudan encourages the efforts of the WHO to adopt the framework for the implementation of the Global Vector Control Response in different WHO Regions. In addition, there is a need to strengthen institutional and human capacity to implement vector control, improve research capacity to generate evidence to tackle the issue of insecticide resistance which poses a serious threat to the global vector control effort.

Sudan urges the Secretariat to take the lead of global health security and advise member states on measures needed to be taken to prevent the international spread of different outbreaks. In addition, encourage countries to strengthen cross-border preparedness and response.

We recommend stepping up support to preparedness, early detection and timely response to public health emergencies as well as increased investment in building the IHR core capacities, with special focus on public health laboratories. Sudan stresses the importance to support countries when applying IHR; the WHO advice on justifiable restrictions of population and goods between countries in cases of infectious diseases outbreaks.