Honourable Chair,
Distinguished delegates,
Excellencies,

Sudan welcomes the Director General’s report on accelerating the elimination of cervical cancer, and acknowledges the effort taken towards ensuring the health of girls and women and achieving the 90-70-90 target.

The draft global strategy to accelerate cervical cancer elimination has defined three pillars; intensive vaccination against human papilloma-virus, screening for and treatment of precancerous lesions and management of invasive cervical cancer.

Introduction of HPV vaccine to routine immunization is essential to save lives of women and reduce burden on the health system in the long run. We urge WHO and partners to take prominent steps towards increasing accessibility to the vaccine.

Sudan currently focuses on screening and has successfully managed to introduce this service into the basic package of services at the primary health care level in pilot states. We stress on the urgent need for referral pathways and people-centric linkages throughout the continuum of care to provide effective services.

With regards to diagnosis, treatment and palliative care of this invasive cancer; we call on increased investment to improve access to the diagnostic services, access to curative care, expanded capacity for surgical oncology, radiotherapy, chemotherapy and good quality palliative care that focuses on symptoms management and supportive care. This is crucial in ensuring that women and their families are protected against catastrophic expenditure due to out-of-pocket payments. We urge WHO to provide technical guidance and assistance to member states in developing national strategies for cervical cancer elimination with context based social mobilization interventions.
In order to approach the 90-70-90 target in a comprehensive manner, the health management information system must be enhanced to provide the evidence needed to inform decision making on CA cervix response. Sudan urges WHO to provide support in addressing the issue of data gap (surveillance and monitoring) within HMIS so as to facilitate the response, track the program’s performance and effectiveness of prevention and treatment measures, and provide the foundation for advocacy, coordinated actions and reinforced political commitment towards cervical cancer elimination.