1. **Chairperson**, Tanzania is honoured to take the floor on behalf of the 47 member states of the Africa Region related to document 146/39.

2. We congratulate the Chairperson, for his role in chairing the discussions around election of the DG, which aimed to improve the election processes in future.

3. Furthermore, we would like to express our appreciation to the Secretariat for conducting a transparent election process in 2017, the lessons of which have been used to recommend for an even a better election process in the future.

4. The Region would like to make a few remarks on some paragraphs in the report:

   a. **In relation to the Code of conduct;** the region fully supports a declaration of amount and funds to be used in elections. In addition, we strongly support coming up with an independent body to oversee compliance with the code of conduct. This body/committee will assist in ensuring that there is a fair and transparent election process.

   b. **On candidature forums exchange and interactions, and how best to ensure fairness for questions which are addressed to candidates and avoiding duplication,** the region supports Para 10 (a) merging the questions, and asking all candidates to answer one by one. We also support the amendments made as described in Para 10 (b) giving more time for candidates to answer questions to enable them elaborate their perspectives on issues raised.

   c. **On the 10 (c) on whether there should be an expansion of the second interaction with the candidates between the EB and the**
WHA, the region is of the opinion that many of the African member states will not be able to attend, and suggests an exploration of an alternative and more comprehensive inclusive mechanism.

d. On 10 (d), the use of broadcasting candidates’ forum, the region is sceptical about its application in the region due to challenges of reliability and availability of internet in some parts of the region. However, we propose to pilot the broadcasting within the region and see if it will be successful.

5. On the Voting process, Para 19, the region is in favour of the current paper-based voting system, as it worked well even in the most recent election. We however, support the exploration of possibility of using a sophisticated software/technology be it optical scanner or any other option that can be used to speed up counting of ballot papers.

6. Lastly, the Region supports adoption of the draft decision with the proposed amendments.

7. I thank you.