Agenda item: 146/41
Update on the Infrastructure Fund: Geneva Building Renovation Strategy,

1. Chairperson, Tanzania is honoured to take the floor on behalf of the 47 member states of the Africa Region on the agenda item 6.6 (EB 146/41), on Update on the Infrastructure Fund: Geneva Building Renovation Strategy and Progress on information technology and management.

2. On the Geneva Building Renovation Strategy
   i. We appreciate an in-depth report of the highlights of the two projects – ie new building and the renovation, which, we, as members of the EB, had a chance to witness recently, and appreciate progress.
   ii. We noted that the report has highlighted new development issues, among them a need to have security infrastructure, which is indeed key in any UN building. We appreciate the fact that they are being addressed now, sooner and not later.
   iii. We express our appreciation for the generous offer given by the Canton of Geneva, for provision of a vehicular entrance to the headquarters, which will enhance security within WHO premises to resemble other UN offices. We also extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Swiss Confederation for continued support for these projects.
   iv. We take note of the fact that the adjustments highlighted to the building will be done within the original budget and will align with original estimates.
   v. Lastly, we support the adoption of the proposed draft decision.
3. Information Management and Technology

i. The Africa region appreciates the report on the progress of information management and technology.

ii. We note with appreciation the development of various initiatives which include integrated digital platform, cloud-based applications and the introduction of the cybersecurity program which has also been embedded within the mandatory awareness training to staff.

iii. We applaud the Secretariat for revising the Information and technology strategy mission and vision to align it with the 13th GPW.

iv. We request the Africa Region be given a special eye due to the fact that the digital platform architecture in the region still lags behind other regions. The idea of a Governance structure and a committee is commendable and should be used to oversee information and technology issues across regions.

v. We take note of the fact that funding landscape is still adequate, and support the need to explore innovative projects for new or frontier technology and move away from pilots.

vi. Lastly, we hope that as WHO moves towards digitalization, cultural changes which workers and leaders might confront will be taken into consideration in order for them to adjust well to the new technologies.

vii. We take note of the report by the DG and support adoption of the recommended decision.

viii. I thank you.