Review of 40 years of Primary Health Care Implementation at country level

1. Tanzania is honoured to make this statement on behalf of the 47 member states of the Africa Region.

2. We welcome the comprehensive report of the review of the 40 years of the implementation of Primary Health Care (PHC) at country level. We appreciate the work done by the Evaluation Office in conducting this important evaluation, but also take note of the relatively few responses obtained. Focal points were provided by 94 member states, and responses received were only 50. We thus recommend in future a mechanism be devised to ensure a reasonable number of member states participate in these important on-line surveys.

3. Chairperson, the Africa region, highly regards PHC as an important foundation in attaining UHC. It is thus worth to note that, even before the Alma Ata Declaration, the Africa Region regarded health as a foundation for national development, a concept which was further reinforced by the numerous resolutions and declarations.

4. These included the resolutions of the International Conference in PHC and Health Systems in 2008 held in Ouagadougou, as well as the Regional Conference on Health District in Senegal in 2013, where countries reviewed the Progress and Prospects 25 years after the Harare Declaration. Many African countries thus, embarked on a number of initiatives to strengthen PHC including strengthening leadership and governance, undertaking health reforms, as well as improving partnerships and community engagement. We have noticed that many of them, have also been highlighted in the evaluation report as key pillars for successful implementation of the PHC.
5. **Chairperson**, many of the bottlenecks highlighted in the evaluation are being experienced by the region. Among them are limited equity in access, poor health infrastructure, shortage and poor distribution of skilled health personnel, inadequate utilization of digital health technologies, and poor access to health services for people in hard-to-reach areas.

6. **Chairperson**, these findings should thus form the basis for the future direction, as countries implement the Astana declaration. We are requesting WHO to ensure that these recommendations are taken on board as countries embark on implementing the Operation framework,

7. **Chairperson**, we take note of the report, and thank you