STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA ON AGENDA ITEM 19: DIRECTOR GENERAL’S PROGRESS REPORT ON ACCELERATING FOOD SAFETY

Thank you Chairperson for the opportunity for Zambia to contribute on this agenda item. Zambia aligns its statement to that made by Kenya on behalf of the Africa Region. We thank Director General for an informative report.

We thank the Codex Alimentarius commission’s work in developing international food standards using scientific advice. We therefore urge Secretariat, member states and development partners to support sustainable and predictable financing for the scientific advice work which is currently reported to be inadequate and fragmented.

The underreporting in food safety is equally worrisome and calls for urgent action at all levels. We therefore urge Secretariat to ensure that harmonised and aligned specific indicators to measure progress in food safety are part of the results framework under development.

The setting up of the codex trust fund to support the strengthening of national Codex structures is highly is welcome. We however, request seceraiate to provide an update on the sources of the funds and how the allocation are being done.

Lastly we appeal to Secretariat to come up with measures to address the outstanding challenges facing food safety arising from the international conferences held in February and April 2019 as outlined in the Director General’s report.

Zambia supports adoption of the resolution on food safety which we are co-sponsoring.

I thank you.