
Thank you Chairperson, Zambia makes this statement on behalf of the Member States of the Africa Region.

As we note the report, and the recommendations arising from the PBAC Report on this agenda item, we wish to congratulate secretariat on the improved level of financing of all major offices in the 2018-2019 programme budget. We applaud the recognition and use of best practices and lessons learnt from this budget implementation to inform future programme budgets such as strategic resource allocation as an effective way of financing major offices and programs and strategic dialogue with partners as a way of mobilizing quality resources. These are key to the attainment of improved health and wellbeing of our people.

Chairperson, the Africa Region is pleased to note that the Programme budget utilization rate as at 31 December 2019, which reached the 90% mark, is indeed a key milestone for WHO to deliver fully on the commitments made in the Programme budget, and we urge the Secretariat to continue on this trajectory.

We have also noted the encouraging projections for the 2020-2021 programme budget with an 11% increase compared to the 2018-2019 programme budget. We put on record our delight that polio eradication and tropical disease research have been provided for, while the WHO Emergency operations and appeals section has been reintroduced as a budget line in the programme budget 2020-2021 to support WHO’s response to health emergencies.

We share Secretariat’s optimism that the 2020-2021 budget will be financed and implemented according to plan.

Finally, Chairperson, the Africa Region Resource Mobilization Strategy, welcomes this initiative and wish to urge the Secretariat to strengthen and expand engagement of donors, stakeholders and member states for the strategy to yield the desired results. We call upon Secretariat to mobilize more flexible and predictable
funding and ensure equitable distribution of funds across programmes and major offices particularly at country level. We further call upon Secretariat to implement the recommendations of the PBAC regarding the resource mobilization strategy.

I thank you