
Chairperson,

The Republic of Zambia is honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the 47 African Member States on this agenda item and wish to congratulate the Committee on the successful deliberations and for the informative report. We commend Secretariat for ensuring that member states are kept well informed on the 2019 novel Coronavirus outbreak.

The Africa Region supports the position of PBAC in emphasizing the importance of continuous updates on the WHO transformation agenda and fully endorses the request for a full update on the transformation to be provided to the 74th session of the World Health Assembly in 2021 through the 148th session of the Executive Board.

We take note of the recognition of the progress made in the Africa region in the implementation of the WHO transformation agenda as highlighted in the Independent Expert Oversight and Advisory Committee (IEOAC) annual report. We are therefore in agreement with the PBAC in fully supporting the recommendations made by the IEOAC as when implemented they will not only improve the governance of WHO but promote value for money and positive impact at country level.

Chairperson, the Africa region would like to commend secretariat for ensuring that the overdue WHO organogram is shared as it is key to the effective implementation of the transformation agenda and GPW 13. The Africa Region supports PBAC’s call to Secretariat to enhance organization accountability, particularly the organizational risk appetite approach to operations and the review and finalization of the 2010 policy on preventing all forms of harassment.

The Africa region supports the position of the PBAC for Secretariat to expedite finalisation of the result framework including harmonisation and standardization of data systems and reporting.

Chairperson, the biggest asset WHO has is its Human resource. We therefore support the call by PBAC to guarantee the safety of staff at workplaces and the urgent need to review and align the WHO’s mental health policy to the United Nations System’s Mental Health and Well-being Strategy.
Like the PBAC, we appreciate the development of the resource mobilization strategy and we look forward to heightened mobilization of funds particularly flexible and predictable funding while ensuring equitable distribution across programmes and major offices particularly at country level.

Chairperson, the Africa Region recognizes non-state actors as strategic allies for WHO to deliver on its mandate. We therefore welcome the evaluation report on the implementation of the Framework for the Engagement with Non State Actors (FENSA) and its recommendations which as PBAC stated should be implemented in full for the partnership to grow and contribute to the health and wellbeing of the people.

Therefore, we support the PBAC recommendation to adopt decision EB146/35 as well as the guidance to secretariat in implementing existing provisions with regards to FENSA.

Finally, the Africa Region supports the organization-wide evaluation plan for 2020-2021 and concurs with the PBAC on the inclusion of two further evaluations as stated in the report. We further support adoption of the two resolutions contained in document EB146/49 Rev.1.

I thank you