Statement by Zambia on Global vaccine action plan.

Chairperson, Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this agenda item. Zambia aligns its statement to the one given by Benin on behalf of the Africa region.

The 2018 global essential vaccine coverage of 86% is worrisome and a dent in our quest to meet the goals and targets set in the Global vaccine action plan 2011 – 2020 and is evidenced by the ongoing outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases such as polio, measles. This scenario impacts negatively on countries in countries like ours.

It is therefore key that we focus on integrated strengthening of our national immunisation programs within primary health care while keeping a tab on elimination and eradication specific interventions.

We should invest in enhancing multisectoral collaboration and strengthened coordination across member states as we have learnt over the years that outbreaks know no boarders.

We request global, regional country donors and other stakeholders to support us in addressing key bottlenecks to national immunisation programs such as Vaccine unaffordability, unexpected vaccine supply shortages and rising vaccine hesitancy. We also call for increased global investment in research and development of vaccines.

We support the recognition and call for action to the growing inequities within and among countries, particularly as a result of climate variability and change and natural disasters which require special attention for us to deliver.

The decade of immunisation 2030 of eliminating measles, rubella and defeating meningitis should therefore build on the global vaccine action plan, learning lessons and best practices if we are to attain the goals and targets to be set.

Zambia notes the report.