Statement by Zambia on Agenda item 9: Accelerating the elimination of cervical cancer as a global public health problem.

Chairperson, Thank you for giving Zambia an opportunity to contribute on this agenda item. Zambia aligns its comments to the statement given by Benin. We commend Secretariat for a detailed report.

The development of the draft global strategy to accelerate cervical cancer elimination in highly welcome particularly in countries like Zambia where the incidence is estimated at 66/100,000 population and mortality of 44/100,000 population.

The setting of the 90.70.90 global targets in the strategy is inspirational, however this can only be meaningfully measured and comparable when health data and reporting systems are harmonised and aligned at all levels.

We fully support the call to integrate HPV vaccination, screening and treatment, early detection and treatment and palliative care into the continuum of care as this will enable leveraging on primary health care systems strengthening interventions as part of the UHC agenda.

Chairperson, HIV programs have grown in the Africa region and cervical cancer interventions are already leveraging on such already existing programs. We commend the partners and donors for the support.

We therefore request for financial, material and technical support to heighten implementation of high impact interventions as guided in the draft strategy including digital and artificial intelligence platforms to enable efficiency and effectiveness in our scale up plans.

Zambia introduced HPV vaccination into its national routine immunisation schedule and we request WHO, development partners and stakeholders to support availability of sufficient, affordable HPV vaccine especially as we expand services. We further commend Gavi for all the support and urge them to continue.

I thank you.