

## Intervention of Oman at the EB150

on Sustainable financing, report of the WGSF, agenda item 19.3

Mr. Chair,

Let me start by commending the efforts made by the Working Group on Sustainable Financing (WGSF). Their report and recommendations will guide our discussion for clear conclusions and decisions.

Mr. Chair,

Oman believes that preventing the threats affecting WHO's essential functions through sustainable funding has become a major priority.

The report of the Working Group has come timely. We noted that consensus was not reached on some recommendations, but we hope that progress would be made during our discussion today.

Oman supports the sustainable financing of the major part of the base program budget, but this must be associated with more transparency, efficiency, accountability, and regular reporting to Member States on the use of any flexible funding.

Sustainability of funding of the base program will ensure the sense of ownership to the Member States and ensure integrity.

Sustainability of funding may be better achieved by increasing the Assessed Contribution (AC) and flexible and unearmarked voluntary contributions.

However, other alternatives may be explored, including options of replenishment mechanisms.

In all cases, Mr. Chair, consideration is to be given to those countries facing financial difficulties, particularly after the apparent negative economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mr. Chair,

Whatever ratio the sustainable financing reaches, the focus of its investment must be made on ensuring that WHO becomes more fit-for-purpose to respond more effectively and faster to the needs of Member States, with particular emphasis on the development of stronger national health systems.

Here, I would like to emphasize the need to increase allocations for Regional and Country Offices to drive country-level impact— where WHO is needed most.

Simultaneously, to rationalize the support and administrative cost we suggest the relocation of some technical programs from Geneva to the regions, where the cost is more reasonable, and the functions would be even better delivered. For this purpose, I assure you, Mr. Chair, that some countries will be more than willing to provide in-kind and logistic support which will result in significant reductions in costs.

Oman supports all proposals that contribute to a WHO that is stronger and that is better prepared and more capable of efficiently responding to health emergencies, including exploring new resources of financing, such as replenishment.

Finally, we propose careful review of the number, relevance, contents and quality of any new resolutions and decisions adopted by the WHA and the EB, to make sure that any of them must be of real priority and be associated with realistic financial implications.

Thank you very much.