I would like to thank the WHO for convening this special session and join others in paying tribute to the bravery and compassion of health care workers working across the region. We support the statement by Belgium in behalf of the Euro region.

We all stand shamed by a too slow response, initially too little was done at every level. As mentioned by the Director General, and also picked-up by Cuba and echoed by the US, it is critical to ensure we have rapid and responsive deployment of workforce, availability of funding to support this and that there is compliance with the IHR. We need to pay close attention to these when we come to the Resolution this afternoon.

We must continue to support the response and cannot pack up too soon. Particularly, we must continue focus on social mobilisation in the community, taking into consideration cultural and behavioural issues. We need active surveillance and epidemiology skills and intense contact tracing. This is even more important in the late stages of this crisis. We need effective command and control functions at district level to be responsive to local flare ups. We need to continue staffing of labs and treatment centers. We need to start recovery of health systems and of course must continue staffing of laboratories and treatment centres.

I would also like to note the scale of the international support, particularly those in Sierra Leone where the UK is focusing its efforts. We have committed more than £325m and through this response, we are supporting, with many partners here, over 1400 treatment and isolation beds, over 100 burial teams, have tripled laboratory capacity and are supporting national and district level command and control.

We welcome positive signs that the incidence of infection in Sierra Leone is now slowing.

We must also remember the collapse of the health system and the impact on malaria, and the health of women and children.

Today is the day we must move from words to action so we never face this again.