

# **DRAFT REGIONAL STATEMENT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE 77<sup>TH</sup> WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY: AGENDA ITEM 3**

**President of the 155<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Board**

**Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom Gebreyesus**

**Excellencies**

**Distinguished Members.**

Zimbabwe welcomes its election into the 155<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Executive Board and pledges its commitment towards the implementation of the World Health Assembly resolutions and decisions. Zimbabwe applauds the Republic of Rwanda for the relentless contributions during its tenure of office.

The Africa Region wishes to applaud the Director General for convening the 77<sup>th</sup> Assembly and successfully navigate the complex agenda into tangible deliverables. Zimbabwe is honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the Africa Region with respect to outcome of the 77<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly held from 27 May to 1 June 2024.

The Region embraces the decision to expedite the conclusion of both the Pandemic Preparedness, Prevention and Response, and review of the amendments to the International Health Regulations (IHR). The decision taken was to continue

negotiations steered by the same International Negotiating Body (INB) and report to the 78<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly following the convening of a Special Session. The Region appreciates the adoption of critical IHR Amendments of 2005 pertaining to the following:

- introducing a definition of a pandemic emergency to trigger more effective international collaboration in response to events that are at risk of becoming, or have become, a pandemic;
- a commitment to solidarity and equity on strengthening access to medical products and financing;
- establishment of the States Parties Committee to facilitate the effective implementation of the amended Regulations; and
- creation of National IHR Authorities to improve coordination of implementation of the Regulations within and among countries.

The Africa Region further acknowledges the adoption of the comprehensive 14<sup>th</sup> General Programme of Work (GPW14) to be implemented from 2025 to 2028. This was an important Agenda Item of the WHO, whose broad goal is to promote, provide and protect the health and well-being of all people everywhere by managing health challenges, and addressing the impact of climate crisis on health.

The Africa Region is amenable to the launch of the WHO investment round which outlined progress made with regard to

modalities and the investment case, financial elements and resource mobilization. The Africa Region looks forward to the implementation of the proposed strategies to finance the investment round which will augment Assessed Member States contributions. Of major significance is the high-level engagement of the G20 Member States during the upcoming 2024 G20 Rio de Janeiro Summit.

The Africa Region is receptive to the updates on matters presented by the Director General especially those related to the acceleration of the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Universal health Coverage (UHC). Matters of critical importance include addressing social determinants of health, maternal, infant and young child nutrition; wellbeing and health promotion; climate change; pollution and health as well as economics and health for all.

The Region further welcomes decisions and resolutions to strengthen the role of WHO in supporting Member States as well as enhanced regional and global collaboration on critical health matters.

**Thank you, Mr. President.**