



Republic of Zambia

**GENERAL STATEMENT AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE 156TH SESSION OF THE
EXECUTIVE BOARD, 3RD FEBRUARY, 2024**

1. Thank you Chair for giving me the floor
2. Zambia aligns itself with the statement delivered by Cameroon on behalf of 47 Member States of Africa.
3. We thank the Director- General for his comprehensive report and commend the WHO for the significant progress made such as the establishment of the WHO Academy in France, the WHO Foundation, the WHO Dashboard for Tracking Secretariat Implementation Plan on Reform Actions, the Investment Round and the continued support of the WHO at country levels, including in humanitarian settings.
4. Zambia wishes to reaffirm its continued support to the WHO and its strong advocacy for global health and multilateral diplomacy. We are confident that collectively, we will continue to build on the gains that we have made.
5. Cognizant of the complex challenges we face, in view of the prevailing economic and financial context, we underscore the importance of the principle of realistic and pragmatic budgeting and a priority-setting criteria in budget allocation, with a focus at country level and the core functions of the WHO.
6. We support the request made by the Executive Board for the Secretariat to prepare a comprehensive analysis on priority-setting and the impact of additional activities on the programme and Budget for the May, 2025 Meeting. We also support the need for a further review of Resolutions and Decisions considering that the 57 recent Resolutions have a budget implication of 2.3 billion on the 2026 to 2027 Programme and Budget. In this regard, Resolutions should be streamlined to avoid budgetary burden.
7. We also support the need to find innovative ways to broaden the donor base in order to reduce dependency on strictly earmarked funds.
8. To conclude we wish to reaffirm our support to the noble cause of the WHO.

I THANK YOU.