



Republic of Zambia

**GENERAL STATEMENT ON THE IMPACT OF CHEMICALS, WASTE AND POLLUTION
ON HUMAN HEALTH: 156TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
8TH FEBRUARY, 2024**

Thank you Chair,

1. Zambia aligns itself with the statement delivered by Cameroon on behalf of the 47 Member States of the Africa Region.
2. We thank the Director-General for the Report which highlights the impact of chemicals, waste and pollution on human health and the critical role of the health sector, in the sound management of chemicals and waste.
3. We welcome WHO's Chemicals Roadmap, which underscores multisectoral collaboration, health surveillance, biomonitoring, and the strengthening of poison centres. We also welcome the establishment of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund under the United Nations Environment Programme.
4. Chair, the Report clearly shows that toxic chemical pollution remains a large environmental risk factor for disease and premature death. This calls for redoubled efforts in the safe handling and disposal of waste and hazardous substances.
5. Zambia, therefore, calls for the following:
 - i) A robust, harmonized, sustainable and human-centred global approach to chemicals and waste management and pollution control;
 - ii) The harmonization of interventions across all levels, through a multisectoral approach, considering that chemicals and waste management and pollution control is multidisciplinary and requires unique expertise from relevant sectors;
 - iii) Increased investment towards chemicals and waste management and pollution control;
 - iv) Improved and increased biomonitoring and the alignment of WHO interventions on matters that have direct implications in the health Sector;
 - v) Promotion of low-carbon and environmentally sustainable health supply chains and technologies; and

- vi) The need to address the many unidentified substances that remain unclassified, which continue to threaten human health and the environment.

To conclude, we wish to seek clarification from the Secretariat, regarding the recommendation in the Report under Paragraph 13, for the WHO to be the custodian of some targets under the Global Framework for Chemicals.

I Thank You.