



Republic of Zambia

STATEMENT ON THE 2026 TO 2027 PROGRAMME AND BUDGET: 156TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, 4 FEBRUARY, 2024

Thank you Chair,

1. Zambia aligns itself with the Statement delivered by Senegal on behalf of the 47 Member States of the Africa Region.
2. We thank the WHO Secretariat for their agility and for the inclusive and transparent process in the budget discussions. We also thank the PBAC for its work and the Report.
3. We commend other Member States and the WHO Secretariat for collectively working together in revising the initially proposed budget to 4.9 billion, in view of the current financial and economic context.
4. The document EB152/27 on the 2026 to 2027 Programme and Budget is based on the three (3) main objectives: -
 - i. *To promote, provide and protect health while strengthening the global health system and WHO's work;*
 - ii. *To direct resources where they are needed most and can make the greatest difference; and*
 - iii. *For the Programme and Budget to be guided by the principle of equity, ensuring that no one is left behind, to continue to advocate for universal health coverage and the right to Health for all and to continue striving to reduce health disparities and improve access to essential health services.*
5. The three (3) objectives or framework remain relevant even in this difficult moment and should therefore form the basis for the prioritization process.
6. We therefore, need to continue strengthening sustainable financing of the WHO, which will ensure that the Organization has the flexible and predictable funding it requires to ensure impact where it is needed the most.
7. We remain committed to the budget process and subsequent discussions on reprioritization and budget review and allocation.

I THANK YOU.