



Republic of Zambia

**STATEMENT ON THE INTERVENTION ON UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE:156TH
SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, 4 FEBRUARY, 2024**

Thank You Chair,

1. Zambia aligns itself with the statement delivered by Ethiopia on behalf of the 47 Member States of the WHO Africa Region.
2. We reaffirm our strong commitment to Universal Health Coverage and to predictable, innovative and sustainable health financing for a strong and resilient Global Health System.
3. Chair the covid-19 pandemic showed us that more work needs to be done in breaking barriers to equitable access to essential diagnostic, preventive and therapeutic products.
4. Multilayered interventions are required at all levels to address the complex structural issues that continue to persist, which relate to the financing of medical research and development, health financing, technology transfer, healthcare supply chains and an Intellectual Property Rights ecosystem that is supportive of public health.
5. We need to deliberately and actively support the local production of health-related products which would improve the timely access of medical products when they are needed the most.
6. We need to move beyond a pathological and biological view of health to a human-centred approach, which truly considers health as a human right. All human beings have the right to access affordable, timely and quality health care. The question of Universal Health Coverage is an ethical one.
7. We must, therefore, redouble our efforts towards the expansion of equitable access to quality health and accelerate our investments for a healthy global community.

I THANK YOU.