



Republic of Zambia

ZAMBIA EB158 STATEMENT: AGENDA ITEM 15 ON THE HARMONIZATION OF REGULATORY APPROACHES, GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS FOR DATA, DIGITAL HEALTH AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN THE HEALTH SECTOR

1. Thank you Chair.
2. Zambia aligns with the Africa Group statement delivered by Cameroon.
3. Zambia recognizes the importance of digital tools and technologies in offering innovative solutions in symptom description, examination, diagnostics, treatment and the enhancement of public health management.
4. The use of digital tools and technologies to advance health, should not be at the expense of data sovereignty. Digital health should be firmly grounded on human dignity, ethical principles, quality health care, patient safety, equity and fairness.
5. In addressing common challenges related to digital infrastructure gaps and regulatory fragmentation, it is important that interventions draw on representative global initiatives and are aligned to respective national contexts and national priorities.
6. We also need to explore best practices that enhance the transfer of technology, capacity building, ethical data access with balanced benefit-sharing mechanisms.
7. Pertaining to the Report EB158/19, we wish to emphasize that strengthening digital health foundations should focus on a people-centred approach as opposed to a person-centred approach as indicated in paragraph 14.

I THANK YOU.