

Statement from Zimbabwe during EB

Agenda item 8

WHO's action on United Nations system-wide action plans Progress report on the implementation of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy

Chair,

Zimbabwe thanks the Secretariat for the report on the implementation of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy. Zimbabwe recognizes the progress made by WHO in advancing disability inclusion across its programmes and operations since the launch of the WHO policy on disability in 2020.

Zimbabwe notes with concern that progress stalled in 2025 due to the impacts of the prioritization and realignment process, including reduced institutional capacity and staffing constraints. We nevertheless appreciate WHO's continued commitment to disability inclusion and the efforts undertaken to mainstream disability across technical programmes, country operations and workplace policies.

Zimbabwe welcomes the establishment of governance mechanisms for implementation of the UNDIS, including within the WHO Regional Office for Africa. We also commend efforts to strengthen accessibility, reasonable accommodation, staff capacity

development and engagement with organizations of persons with disabilities.

Chair,

Zimbabwe attaches particular importance to strengthening disability inclusion within national health systems, especially in low- and middle-income countries where persons with disabilities continue to face significant barriers in accessing health services. We therefore welcome WHO's support to countries in implementing disability inclusion measures and health equity initiatives.

Zimbabwe further underscores that sustained financial and human resources will be critical to ensure meaningful implementation of the Strategy and to avoid reversals in progress already achieved.

I thank you.