

## **STATEMENT DELIVERED BY CAMEROON ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP ON COVID-19 RESOLUTION**

**Mr Chair,**

The Republic of Cameroon has the honour to speak on behalf of the African Group at this May 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the World Health Assembly, which is taking place for the first time in its history in virtual mode. This is truly an unprecedented as the world struggles with managing the COVID-19 pandemic, which is a health and socioeconomic crisis.

The African Group in Geneva wishes to reaffirm its confidence in the World Health Organization and its Director General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, in the execution of its mandate, as the United Nations Lead Technical Agency for Global Health Governance and Public Health Emergency Response.

**Mr Chair,**

The African Group welcomes the initiative of the European Union in support of the draft resolution on COVID-19 and thanks it for its considerations taken into account during the last stage of discussions namely:

- It is important to emphasize the need to make full use of the flexibilities contained in the TRIPS Agreement and the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health. It is equally important that this draft resolution urges Member States and the private sector to work together to facilitate the transfer of technology and know-how for medicines for vaccines, diagnostics and other commodities, that will allow us to meet the global demand and ensure equity;
- Consideration of debt relief or forgiveness to help countries cope with the impact of COVID-19. Declining government revenues will frustrate efforts to adequately respond to the pandemic. Debt relief will help African countries channel more limited financial resources towards a vital emergency response to COVID 19, and to invest in health system strengthening in order to prevent future outbreaks and safeguard the lives and livelihoods of millions of the most vulnerable people.
- Continuation of essential health services particularly for the most vulnerable populations. This is important in order to safeguard the gains in health that have been made so far, and assure achievement of universal health coverage.

**Mr Chair,**

African Group promotes Multilateralism, Global Solidarity and International Cooperation to manage the COVID-19 and recommends that Member States of the World Health Organization consider and adopt this draft resolution at this 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the World Health Assembly.

Thank you!