Statement AUSTRIA delivered by Dr Clemens M. Auer, Member of the Executive Board

TOP 3 – Address by Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General

Ministers,

Excellencies,

Austria fully aligns with the statement of the European Union and its Member States.

Our crisis management fights primarily a virus, Sars-CoV-2.

Many of us are quite successful in implementing our containment programs.

But we have to focus also simultaneously on the support of our economies, labour markets, re-opening schools and universities, international travel and tourism.

Austria is now in the phase of an “Adaptive Recovery” going forward in two-week steps, we started in mid-April by opening all stores and services and by the end of May we will be back to normal life.

In Austria alone, the economic impact of these pandemic crises is enormous. We might end up with a minus of 7.5 percent in GDP in 2020.

From WHO as the supreme technical health authority we expect objective technical guidance in many of these areas.

This pandemic is not alone about health.

We, who are very early in this, have to develop all right measures for this adaptive recovery instantaneous, without being able to look at many good practices.

Another global concern we want to share: We all should consider future COVID-19 medical treatments and vaccinations as a global public good, accessible to all member states at a reasonable prices.

WHO, in this regard, has also to play an important role to facilitate solutions regarding intellectual property rights.

Austria has shown international solidarity by pledging 31 million EUR at the Coronavirus Global Response International Pledging Event recently hosted by the European Commission.

On behalf of Austria, I would like to thank WHO and the Director-General for their leadership and their excellent work.

Dr. Tedros, we trust in you and WHO.