I am delighted to address this historic virtual 73rd World Health Assembly, the 1st of its kind since the establishment of WHO. On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Kenya, I wish to reaffirm our support for the WHO and its leadership, led by Dr. Tedros, as it spearheads multilateral efforts in the response to COVID-19 pandemic.

Kenya reported its first case of COVID-19 on March 13th 2020. As part of preparedness, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta issued an executive order on February 28th establishing the National Emergency Response Committee on COVID-19.
Since then we have put in place robust economic, social and public health measures aimed at interrupting the transmission of the virus within and beyond our geographical borders.

Madam President, Kenya is making significant and steady progress towards flattening the curve. We have learnt many lessons along the way and continue to apply mitigation measures day by day.

In planning for the current situation as well as post Covid-19, we aim to build greater resilience in our health systems through increased investments in primary healthcare and health commodity security as critical pillars towards attainment of universal health coverage.

The lessons learnt from this crisis has reaffirmed the need for Regional, global and multilateral solidarity and collaboration. We now know that no nation can succeed in isolation. We are particularly encouraged by the demonstrations of unity and humanity shown both within and across countries and application of information and technology. We thank all those who have continued to support and collaborate with Kenya.

Kenya therefore joins calls for concerted efforts aimed at ensuring universal, timely and equitable access to COVID-19 tools, as global public goods for health. There is urgent need for the business community, including the pharmaceutical industry to weigh the profit motive and support for the response to this pandemic. Otherwise should we continue to behave normally, the pandemic will treat us abnormally.
Recognizing that 2020 is the year of Nurses and Midwives, Kenya appreciates the critical role played by nurses and midwives as frontline health workforce during this pandemic. Fortunately, so far Kenya has not lost any health worker to the disease.

Indeed, the 72\textsuperscript{nd} WHA declaration of 2020 as the year of the nurse and midwives would not have come at a better time.

Let us all work together to end this pandemic and emerge stronger together, leaving no one behind.

I thank you.