Director-General,

Excellencies,

Sweden aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the EU and its member states.

I want to express Sweden’s strong support and appreciation for WHO’s crucial role and irreplaceable leadership in this pandemic.

Now, maybe more than ever, is the time to strengthen our international cooperation and show global solidarity.

Sweden strongly supports the COVID-19 resolution, which aims to ensure equitable and timely access to quality, safe and affordable vaccine.

Until we have a vaccine in place, the most important thing we can do is staying safe and healthy.

In doing so, we need to ensure everyone’s access to uninterrupted, affordable essential health services, including Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights as well as mental health services. Vulnerable groups tend to suffer the most in crises and the aftermath. The importance of achieving Universal Health Coverage cannot be stressed enough.

In its response to COVID-19, Sweden has benefited from having a universal welfare state, which includes a Health Care System and social protection system, that is needs-based and accessible for all.

We have not yet seen the full effects of COVID-19 in Sweden or globally. This pandemic has once again reminded us on the importance of investing in resilient health systems and emergency preparedness.

We should always invest in humans by investing in their health.

Thank you!