

The resumed session of the 73rd World Health Assembly
11 November 2020 (10:00-17:00 hrs)
Geneva, Switzerland
Bangladesh statement under item-11 (Committee-A)

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

02. We thank Director General for the consolidated report on the four pillars of the work of the WHO ranging from the Universal Health Coverage, protection from health emergencies, enjoying better health and well-being, and better support delivery to the Member States on health-related matters.

03. Availability of and access to primary health care is essential for a healthy life. In this regard, we request the WHO to finalize its Operational Framework for strengthening primary health care including the palliative care. The Framework would provide good guidance to the Member States to bolster primary health care.

04. Bangladesh has made significant improvement in strengthening its primary health care system for its citizens. By setting up community clinics even in the remotest places, the Government has ensured primary health care services for all particularly for the poor and vulnerable.

05. WHO must support the Member States in fulfilling the global NCDs targets and goals. It needs to address the gaps in accessing affordable medicines and technologies for combating the challenges concerning NCDs and mental health. In this context, its efforts to partner with the private sector is a timely initiative. We also stress upon WHO's continued focus on the works related to the cost-effective interventions to promote mental health and well-being.

06. It is of utmost importance that the WHO continues prioritizing immunization to save children's lives. We thank the DG for presenting the draft Immunization Agenda 2030 as the successor of the Global Vaccine Action Plan, its vision, and the strategic framework for its effective implementation. We hope that the new Immunization Agenda would effectively complement the national immunization programmes.

Mr. Chair,

o7. Tuberculosis, Cervical Cancer, and Meningitis are recognized as public health problems across the world. Combating these diseases requires collective actions in the fields of research, innovation, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention. We request WHO to look for innovative ways to increase partnerships and investments to ensure quality, safe, affordable, and effective medicines, vaccines, and other technologies to eliminate these diseases. Also, WHO's support is crucial for many developing countries in implementing the objectives of the global strategies on these public health threats. We welcome the ongoing negotiations on the draft resolutions on Meningitis Prevention and Control, and Global Actions on Epilepsy and other Neurological Disorders.

o8. To conclude, the realization of the Universal Health Coverage agenda calls for a whole-of-the-society approach. The Government of Bangladesh is committed to providing its people with the Universal Health Coverage. We are increasing domestic investment towards primary health care and have adopted a target-based approach to tackle inequity. By improving financial risk protection, especially for the poor, and improving the regulatory and enforcement system, the Government is trying to make improved medical treatment accessible to all.

o9. I thank you.
