



Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Seventy-third Session

Virtual Meeting from 9-14 November 2020

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF
ETHIOPIA ON COVID-19 RESPONSE**

Agenda Item: 13

Thank You Madam/Mr. Chair,

First of all the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia welcomes the report of the director General on COVID-19 pandemic response and fully aligns with the statement presented by South Africa on behalf of African Region.

The World Health Organization has played a pivotal role in building unity and solidarity to be in place within and across member states in fighting the pandemic and providing scientific guidance, technical and other supports.

The pandemic has impacted all countries while the impact is disproportionately profound on the health system and economic development of low-income countries.

Strong leadership at all levels has been the cornerstone of the response for Ethiopia for the mitigation and containment. Activation of strong Emergency Operation Center, developing laboratory testing and treating capacity, allocating and mobilizing resources and commodities, consistent risk communication have been pillars of the strong response to the pandemic to prevent the spread in many countries. A heightened and multi-sectoral response of government through a whole of government and society approach, while maintaining essential health services was another foundation.

The health workforce is also the fundamental element of the response and all actors should encourage and recognize and support the efforts of the health workers who are sacrificing their lives in the battle to fight the pandemic.

I would like to conclude by reiterating that the intensification of coordination, collaboration and solidarity have paramount importance in building effective public health response system. The government of Ethiopia agrees with the decision points and is deeply committed to complying the obligations in this regard.

I thank you!