

Sri Lanka's intervention on Agenda item 11

Thank you Chair,

Sri Lanka notes the Report by the Director General on the Draft operational framework Primary Health Care: Transforming vision into action. We recognize the 14 operational levers and we have moved forward in a similar direction having developed the policy framework for Health systems delivery for UHC which has Primary health care as the foundation. We have been supported by the WHO to document the existing package of essential health services and also have included more services into the package which capture our countries service needs more comprehensively. However, we understand the challenges in implementing and the need to adopt cross programmatic synergies. Health financing will be a key operational lever. Tools for Monitoring are also developed, which needs to be adopted into the Health Information system. We recognize even more the importance of digital technologies for Primary health care especially in the context of the COVID-19 situation. Sri Lanka recognizes that changes are needed in the Health workforce in strengthening primary care. The support of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank for Primary Care Strengthening is greatly appreciated.

Further investments to Human capital for community empowerment, beginning from early childhood too, is recognized.

Sri Lanka welcomes the resolution on Integrated people-centered eye care, including preventable vision impairment and blindness, which are included into the Essential Service package. Challenges exist in monitoring equity in service delivery.

We note the report contained in document A73/5.5 referring to synergies in addressing the burden of epilepsy and other neurological disorders and welcome the draft resolution. We appreciate the evidence-based guidance for low- and middle-income countries to improve health outcomes and minimize social impact due to these conditions. We understand that this will require new competencies in health care providers in primary care services.

Sri Lanka notes the reports relevant to Tuberculosis and appreciates the direction being taken for research and innovation related to better treatment outcomes for Tuberculosis.

Thank you Chair.