



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

COMMITTEE A

STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA ON AGENDA 11.2: FOLLOW-UP TO THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON HEALTH-RELATED ISSUES:

11.2: UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE: MOVING TOGETHER TO BUILD A HEALTHIER WORLD

Thank you Chairperson, for this opportunity to contribute to this agenda item. Zambia aligns its statement to that made by Burkina Faso on behalf of the Africa Region.

In September, 2019, our Republican President, Dr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, was among the world leaders who united to move together to build a healthier world by reaffirming the global agenda of Universal Health Coverage, with the aim of accelerating progress towards its attainment.

We commend our leaders for reiterating financial risk protection; access to quality essential healthcare services; and for the adoption of the Political declaration reaffirming, among others, the right of every human being, to enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

Chairperson, Zambia has made positive strides in pursuit of UHC. Since the enactment of the National Health Insurance Act in 2018, there has been a significant rise in the coverage of health insurance, from 4% before to the current 25%; and there is evidence that this has started bearing fruit.

As noted in the report, we, however, still experience inequities even amidst the progress made, particularly among the most vulnerable members of our society such as children under 5. Preventable and treatable diseases such as malaria and diarrhea still cause great suffering and death among our children. In recent times we did experience an upswing in cases and deaths from these preventable diseases mainly due to disruptions in the supply chain at the height of the COVID 19 pandemic.

We therefore appeal to our leaders and all stakeholders to increase investment in health, an imperative if we are to create resilient, robust and sustainable health systems to accelerate the attainment of UHC.

Lastly, we recognize the efforts of the Secretariat led by the Director General, in supporting Member States, and applaud their commitment to redouble efforts in this regard. We call upon all stakeholders to rise to the challenge and continue supporting this agenda.

I thank you