



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

COMMITTEE A

STATEMENT BY ZAMBIA ON AGENDA ITEM 13.3, 13.4 AND 13.5: INFLUENZA PREPAREDNESS, CHOLERA PREVENTION AND CONTROL AND POLIOMYELITIS

Chairperson, thank you for the opportunity to contribute on these topical subjects. Zambia aligns to the statement delivered by Nigeria for the Africa Region.

The reduction in cholera cases and deaths globally and particularly in the Africa Region is highly commendable. This positive development is attributed to improvements in water supply, sanitation, hygiene solutions supported by the oral cholera vaccination, a critical immediate intervention to the cholera response.

The Government of the Republic of Zambia is firmly determined to eliminate cholera by 2025 in line with our National Multisectoral cholera elimination plan 2019-2025 (NCP), which is aligned to the Global and Regional roadmap for ending cholera by 2030. Zambia's cholera prevention, preparedness and response is anchored on a well-coordinated multisectoral approach with technical support and leadership from the Ministry of Health through the Zambia National Public Health Institute and other line ministries, in addition to local and international partners. In order to fully operationalize the NCP, Zambia has established a multisectoral Cholera Elimination Task Forces at National, Provincial and District levels, and developed a comprehensive, clearly outlined implementation roadmap.

Chairperson, oral cholera vaccines are vital to prevent cholera outbreaks particularly in hotspots. Our call to WHO secretariat is to ensure availability of these vaccines so that all identified hotspots are fully covered. It is our hope that COVID-19 does not divert the attention and derail the gains achieved this far towards cholera elimination.

We also call upon member states and partners to invest especially in the long term interventions like Water, Sanitation and Hygiene infrastructure that usually lags behind due to inadequate resources.

On polio eradication, Chairperson, while we applaud the global effort in eradicating the wild polio virus, the continued outbreaks of polio due to circulating vaccine derived poliovirus type 2, is unacceptable and puts a great dent on the celebrations of the milestones alluded to earlier; as well as impact negatively, the fight against the ever increasing vaccine hesitancy.

While we welcome the Global Polio Eradication Initiative Strategy for Control of cVDPV2, 2020-2021, we appeal to the Secretariat is to heighten its integration within the broader health systems and strengthen not only the expanded program on immunization but primary health care systems in general.

Thank you