Thank you Chair.

1. Kenya is making this statement on behalf of the 47 Member States of the WHO Africa Region.

2. The African Member States thank the Director General for the update on information management and technology contained in document A74/23 and take note of the progress made in implementing the eight key results areas. Moving forward, we request the Secretariat to intensify focus on the collection, aggregation, validation and visualization of data through information technology initiatives for health.

3. The African Region also requests to benefit from a larger share of the Infrastructure Fund so as to reduce the digital divide between and within countries. The COVID-19 pandemic has once again demonstrated the importance of strong data collection and dissemination systems in support of public health decision making.

4. With regards to WHO transformation, the African Member States concur with the recommendations contained in the report, particularly those recommending acceleration of all aspects aimed at delivering impact at country level. As countries move to the post-COVID 19 recovery phase, it is necessary for WHO to improve its physical presence by enhancing the functional, technical and managerial capacities in country offices, especially in the Afro Region. Only then can we build more resilience into the health systems and be prepared to prevent the next pandemic.

5. The African Member States commend the Director General for the changes being introduced in the WHO workforce, namely the pathway towards gender balance, and increased geographical
diversity at the higher categories and request that Member States are kept updated on progress on these matters more frequently.

6. Further, we welcome efforts for more sustained and systematic engagement between WHO Member States and Non-State Actors and look forward to the full evaluation of the experiences of Member States and Non-State Actors on the informal meetings held in the run-up to this year’s Assembly.

7. Turning to the Report by the Director General on World Health Days, the African Member States endorse the decision to commemorate the World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day on 30th January each year. It is our hope that this recognition will spur action towards full implementation of the WHO road map for neglected tropical diseases 2021–2030.

8. The Africa Region supports the adoption of the Resolution on better health for all persons with disability through deliberate actions to realize disability inclusion in health systems at all levels. We equally support the adoption of the decision to develop global health sector strategies on HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections, for the period 2022–2030 in support of the achievement of global commitments, goals and targets for these diseases, including Sustainable Development Goal target 3.3.

9. Finally, the African Member States take note of the progress report on the global technical strategy for Malaria 2016-2030 and welcome the updated strategy for the next 10 years with a defined pathway for malaria-endemic countries. We also take note of the draft resolution on Malaria and support its adoption.

10. I thank you.