Mr. Chair,

We thank WHO Secretariat for the proposed programme budget 2022-2023 and a resolution on that as well as for providing reports of the working group meetings on sustainable financing.

02. Rightly coined, no one is safe until everyone is safe. Hence, we need to move forward leaving no one behind. In such a difficult time of the Covid-19 pandemic, consolidated efforts of the member states are crucially important for ensuring safe, equitable and affordable access of all to health services, medicines, vaccines, and other health related technologies.

03. We recognize that the proposed budget programme has been prepared in the context of the COVID 19 pandemic. However, it should be ascertained that the country specific needs are prioritized in addressing the disproportionate impact of the pandemic. This apart, substantial investment must be made for bringing in significant improvement in health services – particularly, for the developing countries. It is also crucial that WHO attaches utmost importance to innovation and data for building a robust global health system. The importance of accountability and monitoring of the financial arrangements and investments cannot be ignored for the effective delivery and operations of programmes. In this backdrop, it stands to be expedient to support an increase of 16% and 5% of the base and total programme budget respectively for 2022-2023. We hope that this increase would be useful in strengthening country capacity and ensuring a resilient and responsive global health system. Hence, Bangladesh supports the resolution on programme budget 2022-2023.
04. Now we would like to shed light on ‘Sustainable Financing’. WHO is posed with greater challenges owing to the misalignment and earmarking of the fund vis-à-vis its actual requirement to address the exigencies and emergencies. Hence, while crafting policy guideline on sustainable financing, we need to take into consideration some important aspects such as static nature of assessed contribution, growth of earmarked voluntary contribution, precedent of unearmarked government contribution to other international organization and underfunding in some critical health areas. Finally, we would like to highlight - equity should be added to the definition of sustainable financing along with other essential aspects like predictability, medium to long term availability and flexibility.

05. To conclude, WHO must continue to strive for unearmarked long term voluntary contribution from donors and increased assessed contribution from the member states for sustainable financing.

I thank you.

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