Bangladesh Statement

74th World Health Assembly
Item-17.1: Covid-19 Response

Thank you, Chair.

2. We take note of the report on Covid response by the Director General. We appreciate WHO for its leadership role in tackling unprecedented health emergencies emanating from the Covid-19 pandemic.

3. At the outset, we would like to reiterate the Solidarity Call to Action for the global community to voluntarily share knowledge, intellectual property and data as well as to participate in the WHO COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP). As such, WHO’s Global Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan, awareness building measures, technical support, online platform for dissemination of knowledge and information, efforts for mobilizing international support and fund for countermeasures, etc. were crucially vital – particularly, for the developing countries. This apart, ACT-A’s Health Systems Connector, guidelines to limit the spread of false information and zoonotic research on the SARS-CoV-2 virus deserve specific mention.

4. In the backdrop of continuous onslaught of the pandemic on the global health systems, lives and livelihoods of the people, we would like to highlight the following to build back better from the current crisis:
First, in the framework of the COVAX AMC, WHO must continue to make efforts to scale up sustainable supply of vaccines to the developing countries;

Second, WHO must continue to pursue comprehensive measures in all countries to achieve universal health coverage in the spirit of ‘Leaving No One behind’;

Third, WHO’s COVAX manufacturing taskforce must redouble its efforts to increase vaccine supply in the short term as well as to build a platform for sustainable vaccine manufacturing; and

Finally, we urge upon the member countries to consider predictable, sustainable and unearmarked financing to enable WHO to deliver on the functions entrusted to it under the International Health Regulations 2005.

5. To conclude, we hope that the WHO would become the platform for facilitating concerted global actions to prevent future pandemics and secure a more equitable health system for all.

I thank you.

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