Thank you, Mr. Chair.

02. Bangladesh aligns itself with the statement on ‘Social Determinants of Health’ delivered by Thailand on behalf of 11 SEAR countries.

03. At the outset, we would like to thank WHO for their efforts in advancing social determinants of health during the Covid-19 pandemic. As such, the regional and country offices of WHO are playing a vital role to address the impact of the pandemic through extending policy guidance, capacity-building support and mitigation measures to the member states.

04. It is a fact that since the outbreak of the pandemic, countries are diverting their resources to save the lives and livelihoods of the people. It is obvious that the impact of the pandemic is disproportionate on the people having diverse socio-economic profile including age, sex, education, accommodation etc. This disproportionality is also prevalent among the people within and among the societies across the globe. Therefore, inclusive, resilient and sustainable recovery from the pandemic is exigent to improve the social determinants as an integral component of health.

05. In the current context of the pandemic, Thirteenth General Programme of Work 2019-2023 for one billion people enjoying better health and well being by 2023 is naturally subjected to growing challenges. Hence, we need global solidarity, empathy and concerted efforts to keep to our courses.
06. In view of the foregoing, we would like to highlight the following:

**First**, WHO must continue to make efforts to assist the member states in improving the social determinants to leave no one behind;

**Second**, WHO member states must take requisite measures so that Covid response does not compromise with the health related targets of the SDGs of Agenda-2030;

**Third**, WHO must continue to enhance technical support to the countries on measures to address equity and monitor impact;

**Fourth**, WHO must continue to support the countries to develop tools and multi-sectoral approach to counter the disproportionate strain on socio-economic determinants owing to the ongoing pandemic; and

**Finally**, WHO must enhance its efforts for timely, equitable and affordable access to Covid-19 vaccines and other health exigencies as well as encourage for TRIPS flexibilites for license sharing and scaling up their production.

I thank you.

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Time: 3 Minutes
Net wordcount: 355