Thank you, Mr. Chair,

02. We take note of the reports of the Director General on WHO country presence, observance of the World Health Day and role of non-state actors.

03. At the outset, we appreciate WHO’s leadership role at country level to realize Thirteenth General Programme of Work 2019–2023, “triple billion” targets and health related SDGs. We take note that WHO’s country presence is seminal in advancing the crucial health services in the member states – particularly, in the vulnerable settings. WHO’s continued efforts in mobilizing fund from donors and external resources deserve specific mention. However, we would like to flag that WHO must be prudent in diverting its resources to respond to Covid-19 exigencies so that its already attained successes remain unaffected. At the same time, we would like to emphasize that predictable, sustainable, and unearmarked financing from both government memberships and donors is absolutely essential to enable WHO to deliver on its core business at country level.

04. The final report of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response has also come up with many important recommendations some of which are pertinent to the reform of this Organization. Indeed, governance should be reformed in a way that we do not face serious difficulties in future to deal with a pandemic like COVID-19. In this regard, the proposal of strengthening the governance capacity of the Executive Board deserves due
attention. We also agree that a Pandemic Framework Convention could help serve to accelerate governance reforms. However, the Convention should have a clear focus on mechanisms for financing, research and development, mechanisms for equitable distribution of vaccines and medicines, technology transfer and capacity building, with a particular attention to the low- and middle-income countries.

05. About the World Health Day, we recognize that its observance has been useful in generating health awareness in the public domain. Therefore, a well-planned programme and financing may be considered for observing the World Health Day. We see merit in the proposal of some member states on monitoring and evaluation framework for such observances.

06. Concerning the non-state actors, my delegation is of the view that more needs to be done to make their role and contribution more meaningful and effective. The spirit and directives of FENSA must be upheld in rolling out their engagements vis-à-vis the intergovernmental nature of WHO. It is expedient to encourage them to mobilize greater support for timely, equitable and affordable Covid-19 vaccines for all.

07. Finally, we support the proposition of sun-setting of reporting requirements on a number of resolutions where their mandates have been completed or superseded by a new mandate. As such, this will allow Executive Board and World Health Assembly to engage more effectively in their essential businesses.

I thank you.

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Time: 4 Minutes
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