Item 33
WHO global strategy on health, environment and climate change: the transformation needed to improve lives and well-being sustainably through healthy environments

Thank you Chair.

Barbados supports the WHO global strategy on health, environment and climate change to provide a vision and way forward on how we need to respond to environmental health risks and challenges up to 2030.

3. Even in the face of the socioeconomic and public health challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate change phenomenon has not relented. It continues to threaten public health through food availability and security, under-nutrition and vector borne diseases. Provision of safe water and sanitation particularly in the context of natural disasters, climate variability and ageing physical infrastructure requires competent efforts from within the health sector to address the country's needs. Chair, we see this as critical.

4. Consequently, Barbados has prioritized the expansion of its regulatory focus on the water sector's role in the provision of safe water and liquid waste disposal practices. Additionally, the water sector's management of climate driven threats for the protection of water supply sources, from contamination in natural disasters, is also one of focus. We are auditing all water supply sources to ensure that safe potable water is available for consumption.

5. Chair, the SMART hospitals toolkit developed by the Pan American Health Organization and WHO is being utilised, albeit on a limited scale to guide efforts to assess needs and enhance the sustainability and climate resiliency of health care facilities in Barbados.

6. The Caribbean Action Plan on Health and Climate Change 2019-2023 benefits our Caribbean countries by strengthening technical cooperation methods, and will facilitate the access to all resources necessary to address the effects of climate change on health. Chair, the challenge for the health sector is that necessary funding for climate change is routinely disbursed through highly

bureaucratic channels and as a consequence hinders effective development and implementation of some interventions.

7. As such, efforts have been focused on the preparation of a Health National Adaptation Plan (H-NAP) and on the development of initiatives capable of building resilience. This we believe, will link the health sector to national and international climate change processes and enhance access to multilateral climate change funding. Again we thank PAHO for their assistance in this regard.

8. Barbados is also in the process of establishing a National Climate Change and Health Focal Point Unit with an initial task to develop and implement a framework for a comprehensive vulnerability assessment.

Chair, this is Barbados' report. I thank you

Barbados Delegation