Thank you, Madam Chair!

Bhutan is aware that most of the global and regional immunization goals set out in the Global Vaccine Action Plan (2011-2020) have not been achieved. The Immunization Agenda 2030 has provided the impetus to continue the world’s work in advancing vaccines and immunization. For all member states, translating the strategy into action is critical in reinforcing the unfinished works to meet the unmet aspirations of the Global Vaccine Action Plan (2011-2020).

Bhutan considers immunization as a top public health priority and we have introduced several new vaccines recently into our routine immunization program. With the support from the Government of India, Bhutan has successfully conducted a nationwide COVID-19 vaccination campaign and more than 94% of all eligible population have been vaccinated in the country.

Chair,

In the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Bhutan applauds the WHO’s initiatives in starting the global solidarity trial for vaccines treatment. We are confident that WHO will continue to exert its relevance by playing a critical role to make vaccines available to low-income countries. In particular, we solicit the support of WHO and other partners to address the financial barriers associated for the achievement of full vaccination, particularly in the least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Lower Middle-Income Countries (LMICs).

Further, Bhutan extends appreciation to the WHO, GAVI and CEPI for steadfast leadership in initiating the COVAX facility and the GAVI Advanced Market Commitment (AMC). We note with appreciation that such initiatives are geared towards ensuring that the high-risk groups in the most vulnerable nations are the immediate beneficiaries of eventual COVID-19 vaccines, followed by the rest of the population.
Lastly, Chair, we have noted the operational elements contained in the document titled ‘Implementing the Immunization Agenda 2030: A Framework for Action through Coordinated Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation, Ownership & Accountability, and Communication & Advocacy’ and hope to work closely with all players in this field to operationalize the Immunization Agenda 2030.

Thank you!