Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Indonesia
on Agenda Item. 17 – WHO's work in health emergencies and strengthening preparedness for health emergencies (documents A74/9), and Agenda Item 18. Mental health preparedness for and response to the COVID-19 pandemic, (document A74/9)
at the 74th World Health Assembly
24 May – 1 June 2021

Thank you, chair.

Indonesia align itself to the statement delivered by Bangladesh on behalf of the eleven SEAR member states on Mental Health.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the mental health and psychosocial well-being of all people.

This includes health and care workers, frontline workers, those in vulnerable situations, as well as those with pre-existing mental health conditions.

Fear, uncertainty and anxiety over the development of the pandemic calls for strengthening mental health and resilience.

This could be done through an inclusive, multi-stakeholder approach involving different professions related to mental health.

It is also important to do early detection of mental health issues in the community.

In this regard, we welcome the steps taken by the WHO in mitigating various aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which have spilled over into various aspects of health, including mental health.

Chair,

As has been highlighted many times during the assembly COVID-19 has showed various weak links of the global health system.

We need to transform the global health system to allow it to be more resilience toward the next unpredictable public health emergency.

We take note of the new initiatives conducted by WHO in the context of strengthening preparedness for health emergencies.

Indonesia can support such initiatives and their implementation should respect the principle of equity, equality, and transparency.

Indonesia supports exchange of experience and lesson learned to promote accountability and improve global preparedness and response system, including compliance to IHR (2005). Therefore, Indonesia has volunteered to be involved in the UHPR Initiative.

Indonesia recognizes the need for a whole-government and whole-society approach to improving global public health preparedness, and that it requires the support and highest political commitment.

In closing, Indonesia supports the resolution on strengthening of WHO Emergency and Preparedness, and look forward to contribute meaningful at the open-ended working group to discuss further on how we can strengthen preparedness and response.

In this regard, Indonesia would like to confirm our co-sponsorship of the resolution.

Ending the pandemic should be our collective objective.

I thank you.

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