Statement of the Delegation of the Republic of Indonesia
on the
Agenda Item 19 and 20
at the
74th World Health Assembly
24 May – 1 June 2021

Thank you, Chair

I would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing the documents under these agenda items.

During the Executive Board, we have stated our concerns regarding the validity of the survey conducted by WHO related to Agenda 19. We are mindful that a flaw in the survey design could lead to an inaccurate interpretation of the results and future recommendations.

We therefore ask the Secretariat to provide time and space to discuss the result of the survey in consultation with Member States.

Chair,

The current pandemic has highlighted the need for such benefit-sharing mechanism to ensure equity in access to vaccines, diagnostics, during a public health emergency.

Indeed, one of the IHR Review committee recommendation states that development of strategies of sharing of pathogens for surveillance and public health response including for the development of effective countermeasures, should also address the need for equitable global access to benefits arising from their sharing.

Therefore, Indonesia supports the need to share data and pathogens that is in accordance to the principles of transparency, equity, clarity, consistency, and fairness, and has done so through established globally recognized mechanism such as GISAID. This is a key for all of us to recover together.

We recognized the various initiatives proposed by WHO and partners to facilitate rapid sharing of pathogens. However, we are concerned that some of the initiatives are not properly governed and did not sufficiently involve Member States consultation.

We reject the notion that Nagoya Protocol is the main cause of delayed sharing of pathogens with pandemic potential. We have to consider other factors such as biosafety and biosecurity issue that, according to the WHO study on Influenza Virus Sharing, may contribute to the delays of sharing.

Therefore, we propose the Secretariat to actively and properly involve and consult member states, especially for initiatives related to sharing of pathogen, including genetic sequence data, and its

benefit, where the PIP Framework can serve as reference for prudently developing a rapid sharing mechanism,

Chair,

Lastly, on Resolution WHA 58.29, we believe that maintaining laboratory biosafety and biosecurity is critical in handling and containing pathogens of high consequence, to prevent future pandemics. We need to maintain and further strengthen our national laboratory biosafety and biosecurity to optimize the implementation of IHR (2005) through international collaboration.

Thank you.

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