AGENDA ITEM 26.5

PROCESS FOR THE ELECTION OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

74th WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

24 MAY – 1 JUN 2021

Thank you, Chair.

Indonesia would like to thank the Secretariat for:

- ➔ Having prepared the documents for this Agenda Item.
- ➔ Including the reports on the use of optical scanners and contingency arrangements for the election of the Director General of the WHO.

In this regard, we would like to comment on several elements of the current proposed arrangements:

1. We take note that the exact arrangements for the election of the Director General will be determined closer to the date of the 75th World Health Assembly in accordance with the developments of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. We understand that in the event of epidemiological challenges, the voting process can still take place through permanent representatives to the WHO in Geneva or by proxy.

3. We look forward to hearing further report from The Department of Information Management and Technology on whether a suitable system would allow votes to be cast remotely through a secure electronic connection.

4. As to the matter of the possible use of optical scanners to tally the vote, we take note that the study on the cost–benefit analysis and technical evaluation of the scanners concluded that their use does not bring sufficient time saving to outweigh the additional costs and risks.

In this regard, we should focus our attention on:

- ➔ Conducting a fair and transparent election with a manual vote count; and
- ➔ Prepare for the eventualities of the near future with relevant contingency plans.

Thank you, Chair.

(245 words)