Thank you Chair

1. Kenya aligns this statement with that delivered by Algeria on behalf of the African Member States.

2. We thank the Director General for presenting the third progress report on the implementation of resolution WHA69.11 on health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We also take note of the results framework to track progress towards achieving the WHO’s triple billion targets and the SDGs.

3. We however share the concern that the world is off-track to achieving the SDGs, a situation that has been worsened by the Covid-19 pandemic. Kenya therefore urges Member States and the Secretariat to accelerate implementation of the Thirteenth General Programme of Work, the Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All and the WHO’s Special Programme on Primary Health Care in order to synergise actions towards attainment of the health-related targets of the SDGs.

4. Turning to the reporting under the consolidated item on the Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health (2016-2030), Kenya supports its continued implementation, and joins calls for increased support to implement programs that aim to mitigate the effect of COVID-19 on these vulnerable population sub-groups.
5. We take note of the update on Rheumatic heart disease which has been integrated into this agenda item. As at today, up to 40 million of the world’s poorest and most vulnerable, most commonly children and women, remain affected by rheumatic heart disease. This is occurring despite the availability of effective and affordable solutions to this disease owing to a lack of investment at national and global level. We therefore request WHO to develop an Action Plan on Rheumatic Heart disease which will hopefully change this programme from being one of the most underfunded programmes relative to its burden.

6. Regarding health workforce, we take note of the report and support the adoption of the Global Strategic Directions for Nursing and Midwifery. In this regard, the Government plans to further invest in both long term and short-term training, recruitment of health workers and leveraging on technology to enhance access to health services in our post Covid-19 recovery plans.

7. In recognition of the efforts of all front-line health workers in the response to COVID-19, we support the designation of 2021 as the International Year of Health and Care Workers. We also support adoption of the resolutions proposed by Jamaica and Ethiopia in this regard.

8. I thank you.