Mr President

The WHO Director-General

Honourable Members

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Malawi has the honour to deliver this statement on water, sanitation and hygiene in health care facilities (resolution WHA72.7 (2019)).

Mr President, in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and the threat of further health and climate crises, the Government of Malawi reiterates the urgent need for action and investment to strengthen health systems through water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in healthcare facilities. 1.8 billion people use facilities without basic water services and in least-developed countries, half of healthcare facilities lack basic water services. The full extent of the problem remains hidden through major data gaps, especially on environmental cleaning. What data does exist indicates that conditions are dire. Achieving WASH in healthcare facilities is achievable and affordable: just $3 per person per year to 2030 is
needed to achieve universal basic WASH services in healthcare facilities in least-developed countries. Yet, investment in safer healthcare facilities through WASH remains a critical gap for health services in the world’s poorest countries.

Chairperson, in support of the resolution WHA72.7 (2019), the Government of Malawi commits to:


2. Ensure adequate financing to implement costed WASH in healthcare facility national roadmap to: a) strengthen WASH and health coordination; b) develop health workforce capacity to sustain WASH services and promote and practice good hygiene; c) improve monitoring and data on WASH and WASH in healthcare facilities; d) and improve and maintain WASH infrastructure

3. Ensure services leave no one behind through prioritizing vulnerable healthcare users, including women, newborns and people with disabilities, and targeting areas most in need including rural facilities and overcrowded hospitals.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank WHO and our development partners for the support you give to our country.

Thank you for your kind attention.