\Hon'ble Chair,

We would like to thank the Secretariat for the reports under this agenda item and the draft options paper. We also appreciate the Evaluation Office for the Executive Summary of the Mid-Point Evaluation of the Implementation of the WHO Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non communicable Diseases.

We are happy to note from the evaluation that the NCD Global Action Plan has resulted in raising the profile of NCDs internationally and in countries, due to which NCD policies, strategies and action plans have been adopted. However, we are concerned that the alarming increase in NCD cases has not been matched by increased international funding.

We have also noted the three options presented in the draft options paper for the WHO global coordination mechanism. We appreciate the extensive virtual consultations that took place to derive these options. While holding further consultations and deciding on the best viable option, we must take into account the lessons from the pandemic to address the challenges related to improving NCD outcomes.

In Bhutan, we are expanding the implementation of PEN HEARTS package with emphasis on 'People-centric health care services'. However, there are challenges that we are confronted with, especially in light of the ongoing pandemic, such as decreased financial resources coupled with decrease in opportunities to roll out the package due to COVID-19 protocols in place. Further, our concerns are exacerbated by relatively higher health expenditure on curative services in comparison to preventive aspects.

Chair, in light of the increasing NCD cases globally and in Bhutan, we are ready to support the decision to develop an 'implementation road map 2023-2030' for the global action plan to be presented at the 150th Executive Board meeting.

Thank you!