The Philippines supports the adoption of the resolution on the 2022-2023 Programme Budget. We value the proposed budget’s emphasis on equity as a bedrock principle and its greater focus on the health needs of marginalized populations, including refugees, internally displaced populations and the homeless.

We appreciate the White Paper providing a crosswalk between the two biennium budgets’ results framework on Strategic Priority 3. We note that across all regions, there is least correspondence to the target of enabling countries to strengthen equitable access to safe, healthy and sustainable foods. Overall, we appreciate the new set of outcomes which zero in on the nexus of economic, commercial, nutrition and environmental factors as determinants of health.

We see a glaring difference in the proportion of assessed and voluntary contributions to finance the budget. The Philippines is ready to support initiatives to increase the assessed contributions. We recognize the Secretariat and the Working Group’s dedication to the formidable task of finding the best approach to ensure sustainable financing for WHO. The heatmap revealed the need to lay the foundations of equity in financing the target outcomes and major offices. While we map out approaches to correct static assessed contributions and over-reliance on earmarked VCs, we must amplify voices on highlighting that unearmarked VCs will enable resources to flow towards underfunded high priority programs in regions and countries. Further, it will be expedient to consider the associated costs and sunsetting of the resolutions and decisions for adoption in this Assembly.

On the results framework, we are grateful for the Organization’s assistance in making health data more timely, reliable, accessible, and actionable to all. Pursuant to our country’s Universal Health Care Act, we shall conduct annual household surveys and burden of disease estimation to monitor UHC. Policies are in the pipeline, including the eHealth System and Services Bill for accessibility of health, nutrition and demographic-related administrative and survey data.

The Philippines commits to support the Organization in strengthening health information systems to promote transparency and accountability.

Thank you, Chair.