1. **Chairperson**, the United Republic of Tanzania is committed and recognises the importance of prioritising equitable access to health products in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and Universal Health coverage. We are encouraged to see the draft road map describing activities, actions and deliverables for strengthening local production of medicines and other health technologies.

2. **Chairperson**, Tanzania is largely relying on importation of medicines and other health technologies to meet the public health needs. More than 80% of our demands for essential medicines are imported.

3. **Chairperson**, As the world continues with the fight against COVID-19, we note with concern that LMICs continue to face huge challenges in accessing medical products and thus we must ACT to end the inequality. We align ourselves with the developed road map. Consequently, we have started local production of some medical supplies and commodities which are in high demand during the pandemic including masks, sanitizers and coveralls.

4. **Chairperson**, on equity in access to medical products including vaccines and therapeutics, there is a need to support and promote technology transfer in developing countries. We call for continued collaboration and partnership in improving access to health commodities including providing a waiver to Intellectual Property rights and also supporting alignment of the national policies and legislation to promote local production.

5. **Chairperson**, A Strong, stable, well-functioning and integrated regulatory system is one of the key enablers for local production and it provide oversight of locally produced health products. Tanzania became the first confirmed country in Africa to achieve a well-functioning, regulatory system for medical products in 2018, based WHO Global Benchmarking Tool (GBT). In this regard, Tanzania is well placed to boost local production on the African Continent as the first country to achieve this status.
6. **Chairperson**, on substandard and falsified medical products, Tanzania underscores the achievement on activities listed (A) to (H) by the Member States Mechanism and Tanzania is currently in the process of updating its medicine law and regulations to include the provisions related to advertisement and selling of medicines on the internet. When enacted, these provisions will give legal mandate to authorize and regulate such new business model in the pharmaceutical sector and carry out enforcement activities in the cyber space and hence facilitate in reducing the incidences of Substandard and Falsified medicinal products.

7. **Chairperson**, we appreciate the efforts made by the Secretariat for analysing the existing medical devices nomenclature system and the proposal for WHO to have an international nomenclature system that would be available for use by the Member States.

8. These will provide solutions on the issues of governance, classification, coding and nomenclature characteristics as well as access to information. Specifically, we take note of the reports of substandard and falsified medical products and on medical devices nomenclature as recommended by the 148 Executive Board.

9. **I thank you.**