United Republic of Tanzania

Provisional agenda item 17.2 and 17.4

Public Health emergencies: Preparedness and response

[Documents A74/INF./2, A74/16, A74/9 Add 1 and A74/17]

1. **Chairperson,** the United Republic of Tanzania aligns with the statement presented by Togo and that which will be delivered by Zambia on behalf of the 47 Member States of the African Region.
2. **Chairperson**, we commend WHO, IPPR, IOAC and IHR Review Panel for the comprehensive reports on the implementation of International Health Regulations (2005) during COVID -19 response.
3. **Chairperson**, International Health Regulations provide a legal framework for WHO and countries to develop capacities for preparedness and response to any type of public health emergencies. We recognize the crucial role IHR (2005) has played during this pandemic, in particular leveraging the capacities developed in the surveillance and response to public health emergencies. These capacities have enabled countries to minimize the impact of COVID-19.
4. **Chairperson,** As stated in the IHR panel committee's report, the provisions of the International Health Regulations themselves are considerate, appropriate and meaningful in any public health emergence of international concerns. However, there are gaps reported in the implementation and compliance to the IHR (2005) as well as in the

effective response to pandemics. We take note of the recommendations in the reports.

5. **Chairperson,** we support the decision to have a WHA Special Session to consider developing a WHO Convention, agreement, or other international instrument on pandemic response. However, we recommend inclusive and active participation of all countries in different levels of development in the assessment of benefits of the convention/instrument. In addition, it will be important for the assessment report to describe how the instrument/convention will strengthen IHR; its relationship with other international agreements and how it could ensure effective and equitable distribution and timely access to needed goods, services and technologies during a pandemic.
6. **Chairperson,** we appeal to Member States and the secretariat to strengthen implementation and compliance to the IHR. It is imperative that the findings of the reports are implemented for better preparedness to fight the current COVID -19 and future pandemics.
7. **Chairperson,** in conclusion we would like to emphasize on the need for the secretariate to capacitate the IHR National Focal Points to carry out their roles effectively; assist in the resource mobilization for emergence preparedness and response and streamlining the national legal frameworks to align with the International Health Regulations.
8. **I thank you**