STATEMENT BY THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA ON THE SPEECH OF THE WHO DIRECTOR GENERAL (DOCUMENT A74/3)

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1. **Chairperson,** Tanzania, commends the WHO for the excellent preparation of the WHA and further appreciates the continued support given to the member states.
2. **Chairperson,** the current meeting is taking place at a time when sustained public health measures are still required in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We continue to recognize the vast extent of the tragedy that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have on the social, economic and health of millions of people around the world.
3. **Chairperson,** we are committed to, and recognise the importance of prioritising equitable access to health products in order to achieve the SDGs particularly target 3.8. This includes strengthening local production of Medicines and other technologies to improve access to health commodities and strengthening regulatory capacity of member states. With the global demand of Personal Protective Equipment, our country has managed to locally produce Coveralls and Surgical Masks, we have increased local production of hand sanitizers, and we are planning to engage local industries to manufacture ventilators.
4. **Chairperson,** in conclusion, there are issues that are of key relevance to the African Region, such as polio transition, the Nagoya protocol on equitable sharing of benefits of genetic resources, as well as malaria elimination, routine immunization, the health of women and children, and investing in health care workers, among others. We are positive that the current WHA will make fruitful deliberations on these issues for the benefit of all.
5. **Chairperson,** we take note of the Director Generals report.

Thank you for your attention