

STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA ON AGENDA ITEMS 17.2: UPDATES BY IEOAC, IHR-REVIEW COMMITTEE AND THE IPPR, AND 17.4: IMPLEMENTATION OF IHR (2005)

Chairperson**,** thank you for the opportunity to make an intervention on these agenda items. Zambia aligns its statement to that made Togo on behalf of the Africa Region. We thank Secretariat for the work they keep doing across the globe; in the various regions and member states; and we wish to show gratitude to the Director-General for his leadership especially during this extraordinary period when the world is in the midst of fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

Zambia has been working with WHO and other stakeholders in strengthening public health security in the country including emergency preparedness and response. Notably, we have conducted vulnerability risk assessment and mapping; developed various strategic documents such as the National Action Plan for Health Security, National Action Plan for Antimicrobial Resistance, All-Hazards Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan and others; established the Zambia National Public Health Institute and the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre, to anchor the coordination of public health security; and strengthened the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) in the country through domestication of the IHR (2005). The country has been able to respond to public health emergencies and manage disease outbreaks, including the COVID-19 pandemic due to capacity building that has been made possible through collaboration with the various stakeholders. However, there is need for continued support, particularly, from the World Health Emergency Program at country level which in turn will require enough financial resources to meet the technical demands.

Zambia takes note of the report of the Director-General and acknowledges the progress made in strengthening public health emergency preparedness and response; we therefore, support the adoption of the draft decision calling for the development of a pandemic treaty to strengthen WHO's health emergency preparedness and response capacities, including to address the recommendations of the IPPPR, the IEOAC and the IHR Review Committee on the Functioning of the International Health Regulations (2005) during the COVID-19 Response.

In this regard, Zambia requests to be included on the list of co-sponsors for the Draft Decision contained in document A74/A/CONF./5 Add.1, calling for a Special Session of the WHA.

Thank you.