# STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA ON ITEM 22.1- SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

**Chairperson,**

Zambia aligns her statement to that delivered by Nigeria on behalf of the Africa Region, and wishes to thank Secretariat for the report by the Director General on addressing the Social Determinants of Health. We welcome the intent of the relevant WHA and UNGA resolutions, and the report on the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health and the Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants of Health (2011) and acknowledge its tenth anniversary.

We note with concern that although strides have been made towards Universal Health Coverage, distribution is unequal and inequalities exist within and between countries. We also note that Health in All Policies (HiAP) Strategic Frameworks, even though adopted and developed by countries, the concept is still new and has yet to be fully operationalized. Zambia, for example, developed the HiAP Framework (2017-2021), disseminated it, and formed a National Multi-sectoral Coordinating Committee for actualisation. Therefore, there is still need for member states to formulate and build capacities of Ministries of Health to coordinate considerations of health in all public policies in order to address social determinants of health towards Universal Health Coverage.

We applaud secretariat for the progress made so far in stressing on countries to use Whole-of-Society approaches in responding to health challenges such as COVID 19; Cholera, TB; NTDs; NCDs; Safe motherhood; Child Health and HIV. We appreciate the repository for health data in the country which will facilitate use of research evidence in policy formulation. This repository needs support for collaborative efforts of international organisations and other stakeholders to mobilise resources including technologies to enable monitoring and addressing social determinants of health.

However, owing to weak and irregular coordination and collaboration of WASH and NTD sectors in many NTD-endemic countries, we call on stakeholders to support coordination and collaboration efforts such as establishment of national coordination frameworks through which social determinants related to NTDs can be addressed.

Zambia therefore, recommits to the resolution WHA62.14 on reducing health inequities through action on the Social Determinants Health and urge the Secretariat and all stake holders to support member states in the establishment of monitoring systems.

Thank you.