The Republic of Zambia

THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA STATEMENT ON AGENDA 26.4 ON GLOBAL STRATEGY AND TARGETS FOR MALARIA (2016–2030)

Chairperson, thank you for the opportunity to make a statement on this agenda item

Zambia Aligns its statement to that delivered by Kenya on behalf of the Africa Region. We wish to commend the Secretariat for achieving key milestones as highlighted in the Director General's report including elimination and prevention of re-establishment, with 10 countries achieving interruption of malaria transmission. However, we note that progress in reducing malaria mortality and morbidity slowed, stalled or reversed in many moderate- and high-burden countries.

The report also notes the unequitable access to prevention measures, diagnosis and treatment options despite a modest expansion in their availability. We therefore appeal to the Secretariat for support in this regard.

Chairperson, I am glad to report that despite the surge in malaria cases in 2020, Zambia has continued to scale up key interventions to mitigate the upsurge in malaria cases. In low transmission settings, Zambia has introduced malaria case based investigation to provide a timely response to any positive case identified in order to contain and respond to outbreaks.

We recognise that sustainable, equitable malaria control requires resilient health systems and that the COVID -19 pandemic and other recent past epidemics have negatively affected health systems' functioning, production and the delivery of life-saving malaria interventions in environments safe for both health workers and communities.

Our country has made progress in reducing malaria mortality from 15.2 /100,000 population in 2015 to 7.7/100,000 in 2019. However in 2020, mortality increased to 11/100,000, primarily driven by climate change which resulted in increased rainfall, disruptions in programming, intermittent low stock levels of anti-malaria medicines and tests particularly at community level. These were compounded by the COVID - 19 pandemic which further affected the global supply chain among other impacts to the health system.

In this regard, the Republic of Zambia, as a co-chair, has proposed a resolution that has been co-sponsored by many other member states, on the updated Global Strategy and targets for Malaria 2016-2030. The resolution was negotiated over three informal consultations to reach consensus, and we call on all member states to support the adoption of this resolution.

Thank you.