

The Republic of Zambia

STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA ON ITEM 34 A: SUSTAINABLE HEALTH FINANCING STRUCTURES AND UHC

Chairperson, The Republic of Zambia wishes to take this opportunity to commend the secretariat for their work in making available the two reports on sustainable financing. We recognise the need for sustainable financing to WHO as it carries out its functions.

Zambia is alive to the fact that, sustainable financing of the WHO has been a critical issue for a long time and it requires urgent attention especially now with the global outbreak of the COVID-19 as well as the rising numbers of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) among others.

We note from the reports that the level of Assessed Contributions have remained largely static while the proportion of Voluntary Contributions from donors have increased.

We have also observed that, this heavy reliance on earmarked Voluntary Contribution has made it difficult to align funds to priority areas for Member States as core voluntary contributions are not fully predictable in the medium and long term. The implication is that, some priority areas, such as Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), Emergency Preparedness, and data and science functions for Member States remain chronically underfunded.

Chairperson, we support and acknowledge the need for WHO to focus on funds from Assessed Contribution when planning than Voluntary Contributions as this will ensure sustainability of support to programmes in member states as well as flexibility in the use of available resources. This therefore calls for review of annual Assessed Contributions by member states and Zambia stands ready to support this trajectory as long as it will be within the manageable threshold, considering the limited fiscal space that our country is facing. Zambia remains committed to ensure that the agreed upon annual assessed contribution are paid on time.

I thank you