

The Republic of Zambia

STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA ON AGENDA ITEM 34 E: PROGRESS IN THE RATIONAL USE OF MEDICINES

Chairperson, thank you for the opportunity to make a statement on this agenda item on the progress in the rational use of medicines.

It is gratifying to note that Member States, secretariat and partners, are working together to promote the rational use of medicines. The progress made in setting norms and standards for selection and rational use of medicines, surveillance of consumption and use of antimicrobial medicines and the development of advocacy materials on antimicrobial stewardship are highly commendable.

We are encouraged by the Eastern Mediterranean Region who have included rational use of medicines as well as the lessons from COVID 19 in their regional strategy and we implore the Africa Region to follow suit. This is particularly important and will be an addition to the WHO public campaign to discourage the use of irrational and harmful therapies promoted by the global misinformation associated with the COVID 19 pandemic.

We note that irrational use of medicines in both the public and private sectors has been attributed to weak enforcement of good practice standards. There is need to include rational use of medicines package for in-service training of providers and design interventions to address overuse of antimicrobials and injections and conduct operational research to determine the feasibility and effectiveness of such interventions.

Zambia continues to promote the rational use of medicines in our national policies and plans as recommended in resolution WHA 60.16. Therefore, we welcome the recommendation by WHO to strengthen the rational use of medicine and commit to developing mechanisms for monitoring antimicrobial resistance. Furthermore, we appeal for technical and financial support in the ongoing review and development of guidelines, policies, monitoring and evaluation plans that incorporate rational medicines use, AMR, and Pharmacovigilance.

I thank You