The Republic of Zambia

THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA STATEMENT ON AGENDA ITEM 34 H: WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE IN HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

Chairperson, The Republic of Zambia wishes to make a statement on agenda item 34 H covering Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Healthcare facilities during the 74th session of the World Health Assembly.

Zambia notes the progress report and that evidence has continued to reveal that Healthcare facilities in Low and Middle Income countries such as ours have a problem of inadequate WASH services. It is saddening that the recent joint monitoring by WHO/ UNICEF revealed that one in four facilities have no basic water services, one in 10 have no sanitation services and one in three do not have adequate facilities to clean hands at the point of care. Furthermore, one in three do not segregate waste safely.

Following the global call to action, the Government of the Republic of Zambia hosted a global event on WASH in Healthcare facilities in October 2019, to operationalise the resolution adopted by the 72nd World Health Assembly. Zambia, with support from the WHO Secretariat and other partners, developed the Minimum Standards for Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and the Quality Improvement Standards aimed at system strengthening in health facilities. This has culminated in significant strides towards accelerating the implementation of WASH in Healthcare facilities, which is confirmed by the progress made towards achieving the various steps highlighted in the report.

Zambia, therefore, wishes to request for support to amplify the implementation of WASH in Healthcare Facilities. We call for increased investment by all stakeholders, as well as continued technical support to enhance the realization of SDG 3 and SDG 6.

I thank you