75th Session of the World Health Assembly (WHA75)

National Statement (GUYANA)

General Discussion on WHO Global Health for Peace Initiative (GHPI)

Excellencies
Fellow Ministers
Director General- Dr. Tedros
Distinguished Representatives and Delegates

Guyana welcomes the report by the Director General at the 150th Session of the Executive Board on the Global Health for Peace Initiative (GHPI). We take note of the work undertaken in the framework of the GHPI and the progress made in adopting a Health for Peace approach.

During conflicts where displaced populations are exposed to insanitary and overcrowded rooms, trenches, refugee shelters, and concentration camps with disruptive healthcare services, disease transmits relatively easily. Consequently, many persons become susceptible to diseases prevalent in the relocated region, and some may introduce pathogens to the native population. Hospitalization rates, therefore, tend to increase.

With conflict and violence on the rise, Guyana believes it is critical to further integrate peace and conflict considerations into the work of the World Health Organisation. We affirm the view that peace supports all that is good in our societies and underscore the nexus between peace and health and the implications for development.

Excellencies,

I recall the establishment of the WHO Health as a Bridge for Peace programme in 1997, which had its genesis after the concept of health as an enabler of social cohesion and peace in conflict settings was initially coined by the Pan American Health Organization in the 1980s. These concepts remain valid and we must continue our efforts to produce tangible results premised on them. Guyana therefore strongly supports health programmes which contribute to peace as these help to build the sense of equity, trust, and inclusiveness. Further, such programmes have generally increased social cohesion at the local, regional and international levels.

I underscore further, the inextricable link between health and sustainable development. Healthy populations are critical for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Public health represents both an outcome of sustainable development and a prerequisite for its achievement. Persons in conflict situations are in particularly vulnerable circumstances and need international solidarity, support and cooperation to ensure that they are not left behind in the global development thrust.
Allow me to conclude by also underscoring the importance of capacity building to advance the health for peace, peace for health agenda. Continued targeted capacity-building efforts for effective implementation of an Health for Peace approach to programming remains critical.

I thank you.