



**Solomon Islands Health Minister's intervention at the WHA Meeting 2023 on Agenda item 13. Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board - 13.1 Universal Health Coverage 13.2 Political Declaration of the third high level meeting of the General Assembly on prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and mental health.**

Thank you chair, we take note of the reports, Reorienting Health Systems to primary health care as a resilient foundation for universal health coverage and preparations for a high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on universal health coverage.

We also note of the political declaration of the third high level of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.

Solomon Islands, endorsed the WHO Western Pacific Region action framework for Safe and Affordable Surgery and began implementation to increase access to quality surgical services and mitigate the harm of delayed treatment.

Our Ministry of Health and WHO supported an assessment of sterilization services at our National Referral Hospital and at a provincial hospital with action planning to reduce surgical site infection and sepsis resulting postoperatively and in non -surgical departments.

MHMS and WHO introduced a checklist-based approach to evaluate diabetes and diabetic foot management aiming to reduce the need for surgical foot amputations (the most common surgery in NRH).

WHO with the support from EU have in the past week donated an oxygen plant to increase access to treatment of all Solomon Islanders with severe or critical pneumonia. This will greatly enable us to provide sufficient oxygen for those who need it both at our National Referral Hospital and the provincial hospitals, Area Health Centers and Rural Clinics.

Chair we are in agreement and in support of the specific priority areas for action as outlined in the report and wish to highlight that these can be implemented and achieved through effective advocacy that is evidenced-based, adequate funding support along with appropriate technical assistance and effective engagement of multi stakeholders.

Chair we would also like to assure of our support towards the adoption of the resolution recommended by the Executive Board in decision EB152 (5) 2023.