

Zimbabwe on Agenda item 22.2. Matters emanating from the Working Group on Sustainable Financing

Thank you, Chairperson.

As Zimbabwe, we are in support of the statement made by Ghana on behalf of the African region.

Zimbabwe concurs with the WHO 2023-2024 program-based budget, as well as the review and gradual increase of the country's assessed contributions. The increase in the assessed contributions will allow the WHO to adequately support and implement planned programs and will go a long way toward the achievement of universal health coverage. Zimbabwe however, proposes that the assessed contributions take into consideration, the capability levels of the low-income and middle-income countries.

Chair, the Zimbabwe Government continues to support the health budget with a gradual increase in meeting the Abuja declaration recommended level from 9% in 2020 to 13% in 2023. To achieve Universal Health Coverage, Zimbabwe is focusing on domestic resource mobilisation. Zimbabwe achieved one of the highest COVID-19 vaccination rates in the Region, and the vaccines were financed entirely through domestic financing from the Government. The National Aids Trust (AIDS Levy) (which is 3% of the tax liability) was established at the peak of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and is one of the outstanding funding innovations the country has utilised to respond to the pandemic.

A Health Fund which is raised from a 5% levy on airtime data has led to improved procurement of medicines and commodities, medical technologies, and medical equipment. Currently, negotiations are underway to secure domestic funding for emergencies due to Road Traffic

Accidents from the Road levy, as well as funding for NCDs from the Tobacco Levy.

Furthermore, to ensure sustainability, Zimbabwe is implementing basic cost recovery health fee structure, applicable to the eligible groups. This will allow service providers to quickly restock the basic medicines and commodities thereby allowing health access. My country has also gone a long way in the establishment of a National Health Insurance Scheme, as another strategy to increase domestic health financing. The Zimbabwean government will continue to explore innovative and sustainable financial resource mobilisation mechanisms to achieve its universal health coverage targets, Sustainable Development Goals, and respond to health emergencies. This will provide the necessary financing for health for all, leaving no one and no place behind.

Thank you.