Thank you chair,

Kenya recognizes the important role of the International Health Regulations (2005) in ensuring that public health threats are promptly detected and notified to WHO, in order to trigger an appropriate response. We have continued to implement activities geared towards strengthening the IHR core capacities to enable the country to play its part in achieving this goal.

Achievements made include the development of a National Action plan for Health Security, intra action and after action reviews, as well as Joint External Evaluations, in line with the IHR monitoring and Evaluation Framework. Kenya has also established and operationalized a National Public Health Institute and enhanced laboratory testing capacities countrywide including for genomic sequencing.

However Chair, despite the progress made, full achievement of the IHR minimum core capacities has been hampered by resource constraints, like in many developing countries.

Kenya therefore urges WHO and partners to mobilize resources to support the implementation of core capacities, particularly in developing countries, through the new financing mechanism proposed in Article 44A of the proposed amendments to the IHR.

Kenya takes note of the report on agenda 14.1 on WHO’s work in Health Emergencies and is aligned with the global and regional strategies for effective pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, through the National Action Plan for health security using a One Health Approach.
On agenda item 14.3 on global health and peace initiative, we welcome this initiative and affirm that the call resonates well with the priorities of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in the horn of Africa of which Kenya is a member.

We urge WHO to expand its consultation with member states to further strengthen the process of developing guidance on integration of peace initiatives into health programming, and to consider local contexts in its implementation.

Finally, we call upon WHO to develop a transparent framework to identify potential funding projects aligned with specific needs of Member States' under the Global Health and Peace Initiative.

Thank you.