



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES STATEMENT

WHA 77

Zambia commends the global efforts to combat NTDs, as evidenced by the significant reduction in the number of people requiring interventions against these diseases. The reduction of 25% between 2010 and 2021 is a testament to our collective commitment. However, we note with concern that despite this progress, 1.65 billion people still require interventions against NTDs, underscoring the need for sustained action.

While acknowledging the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Zambia is deeply concerned about the reversal observed in NTD treatment coverage in 2022. The decrease of 28% in the number of people treated compared to 2021 is alarming and underscores the need for intensified efforts to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on NTD programs. We urge Member States to prioritize the continuity of essential NTD services, particularly considering the severe disruptions experienced during the pandemic.

Zambia recognizes the importance of cross-cutting approaches in intensifying our efforts against NTDs. We welcome the expansion of preventive chemotherapy strategies to include additional diseases and the emergence of integrated approaches to address skin-related NTDs. Strengthening cross-sectoral coordination, particularly through initiatives such as One Health and global vector control responses, is essential for effectively combating NTDs.

Furthermore, Zambia emphasizes the need to enhance monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for NTD programs to ensure consistency and improve data visualization. We commend the initiatives undertaken to develop interactive dashboards and tools to facilitate the reporting process and collect comprehensive data on NTD indicators.

As we navigate the way forward, Zambia acknowledges the urgent need to address the challenges faced in combating NTDs, including knowledge gaps, operational challenges, and limited access to conflict-affected areas. We support the strategic priorities identified during the Global Neglected Tropical Diseases Programme Partners' Meeting and

reaffirm our commitment to working collaboratively with partners to achieve our shared goals.

In conclusion, Zambia reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the eradication of NTDs and calls upon Member States and partners to redouble their efforts in implementing the Roadmap for Neglected Tropical Diseases 2021–2030. Together, we can overcome the challenges posed by NTDs and ensure a healthier future for all.

Thank you.