



Acceleration towards the Sustainable Development Goal targets for maternal health and child mortality Agenda item 11.7

Thank you, chairperson, for giving me the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of Zambia regarding the progress toward coverage of key interventions in reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health aligning with the statement delivered by Nigeria, Tanzania and Lesotho.

Zambia acknowledges the strides made globally in increasing access to contraception, with 77% of women of reproductive age having their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods. However, we remain concerned about regional disparities, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, where only 56% of women have access to modern contraceptive methods. Zambia reaffirms its commitment to addressing this gap and ensuring universal access to family planning services.

Furthermore, Zambia recognizes the importance of achieving universal health coverage, particularly in reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health. While significant improvements have been observed in infectious disease components, progress in other areas has been gradual. We urge Member States to prioritize the implementation of key interventions to bridge existing gaps, especially in family planning services, breastfeeding, and the treatment of childhood illnesses.

We also emphasize the need to address inequities in access to reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health interventions. Data consistently show higher coverage rates among those living in richer households, with more education, and in urban areas. Zambia underscores the importance of targeting interventions to reach marginalized populations and reduce disparities in access to essential health services.

Furthermore, Zambia recognizes the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on immunization coverage, with varying levels of recovery observed for different vaccines. We urge Member States to prioritize efforts to ensure equitable access to vaccines, particularly for measles-containing vaccines, and to address barriers to immunization services.

In conclusion, Zambia reaffirms its commitment to accelerating progress toward reaching the 2030 maternal and child mortality targets. We recognize the

importance of evidence-based interventions and strategies outlined in global initiatives such as the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health and Every Newborn Action Plan. Zambia stands ready to collaborate with partners and stakeholders to accelerate efforts and ensure the health and well-being of women and children worldwide.