



The Republic of Zambia

Sustainable Financing: WHO investment round

Chairperson, it is an honor to address this Assembly on behalf of Zambia regarding Agenda Item 18 aligning to the statement delivered by Ghana on behalf of the 47 Africa Region member states.

Honorable Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honor to address the World Health Assembly on behalf of the Republic of Zambia regarding Agenda Item 18. This agenda item focuses on the critical aspect of resource allocation and transparency within the World Health Organization, ensuring that contributions are effectively and equitably utilized to achieve our collective health objectives.

Honorable Chair,

Zambia commends the efforts of the Resource Allocation Committee in ensuring that thematic voluntary contributions are allocated transparently and efficiently across programmatic outputs. The three-level consultation process involving output delivery teams and technical networks is a commendable approach. It ensures that resources are distributed across the Organization's three levels, respecting thematic earmarking made by donors as part of their agreements.

We acknowledge the importance of contributions with geographical specifications up to major office and country office levels, and programmatic specifications up to outcome and strategic objective levels. This level of specificity allows for targeted interventions and ensures that funds reach the areas of greatest need, thus maximizing their impact.

Zambia supports the new definition of thematic funding to be applied with the launch of the next investment round, starting from the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly onwards for the period 2025–2028. This change is anticipated to enhance the alignment of funding with strategic priorities and improve the overall effectiveness of resource utilization.

Honorable Delegates,

The inclusivity of the Resource Allocation Committee, with strengthened representation from country offices, is a significant step forward. It ensures that the perspectives and needs of countries, particularly those with limited resources, are adequately considered in the allocation process. We appreciate the ongoing efforts to optimize procedures to ensure the timely distribution of thematic funds, thereby enhancing their impact on health outcomes.

Transparency in the allocation and utilization of funds is crucial. We commend the Committee for making information about the distribution of Member State thematic funding publicly available on WHO's web portal. We look forward to the adjustments being considered to display potential non-Member State thematic giving, which will further enhance transparency and accountability.

Honorable Chair,

Reporting requirements are an essential component of accountability. Zambia supports the Secretariat's initiative to develop standardized reporting templates, as included in the Secretariat's implementation plan on reform. The ongoing analysis of existing reporting requirements within WHO and other relevant United Nations entities is a valuable exercise. Identifying functional areas for harmonization and working with individual donors to champion this process is a step in the right direction.

We encourage further discussions with Member States and donor groups to solicit ideas, suggestions, and inputs to improve reporting mechanisms. Standardized and harmonized reporting will not only reduce the administrative burden but also provide clearer insights into the utilization and impact of funds.

Honorable Delegates,

Zambia remains committed to supporting these initiatives and looks forward to collaborative efforts to ensure that our contributions are used effectively to achieve our shared health goals. We believe that with transparent, equitable, and efficient resource allocation, we can make significant strides in improving global health outcomes.

Thank you