



STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA ON THE PREVENTION OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, ABUSE AND HARRASMENT

Thank you, Chairperson.

Zambia aligns with the statement delivered by the Central African Republic, Mali, and Algeria on behalf of the 47 African Region Member States and appreciate the updated report of the Director-General on the WHO's three-year strategy (2023–2025) for preventing and responding to sexual misconduct. This includes updates on support provided in nine substantiated cases during the 10th Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

We commend the Secretariat's leadership in addressing sexual misconduct and supporting victims and survivors, especially the hiring of a victim and survivor support officer at WHO headquarters. We agree with the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee's recommendations on cultural and behavioural prevention aspects and endorse the development of an action plan, key performance indicators, and regular surveys.

We support comprehensive tracking of investigations and disciplinary measures for all misconduct cases, including sexual misconduct, and call for broader focus on inappropriate behaviour such as fraud and corruption. We approve the drafting of a culture change strategy aligned with WHO values.

Our recommendations for the Secretariat are as follows:

1. Maintain strong leadership and focus on preventing and responding to sexual misconduct.
2. Strengthen the prevention capacity of implementing partners and WHO operations.
3. Further support victims and survivors of sexual misconduct
4. Broaden prevention efforts to include all forms of misconduct.

5. Implement the Advisory Committee's recommendations on organizational culture and systems change.
6. Develop funding options for sexual misconduct prevention in emergency operations.
7. Ensure member state accountability in safeguarding joint operations against sexual misconduct.

Zambia is committed to supporting WHO's efforts to combat sexual misconduct and foster a safe, respectful environment for all.

Thank you.