



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

DRAFT AFRICA REGIONAL STATEMENT ON AGENDA ITEM 3:

Address by WHO Director-General

Thank you Chair; The United Republic of Tanzania is honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the 47 African Member States.

We commend WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros and his team for their leadership in strengthening global health systems, and acknowledge the solidarity of all Member States in concluding the Pandemic Agreement negotiations amidst current global challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed critical gaps in global response, highlighting the need for a legally binding agreement to ensure preparedness, equitable access to vaccines and treatments, and coordinated global action. We urge all Member States to adopt this agreement, recognizing our shared responsibility and the importance of solidarity in addressing health emergencies and achieving global health equity.

Africa Region appreciates the continued support of the World Health Organizations in strengthening healthcare systems, combating infectious diseases, and promoting Universal Health Coverage. We particularly recognize WHO's timely assistance in managing diseases outbreaks such as Marburg, MPOX, and cholera. Furthermore, we value WHO's ongoing support in advancing maternal and child health outcome, and in facilitating critical evaluations such as the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) and the Universal Health and Preparedness Review (UHPR). Since, these evaluations are instrumental in assessing and enhancing national health security capacities, we recommend countries to increase ownership and accountability.

We commend the collective efforts of all Member State who have contributed to the WHO-Investment Round, particularly at a time when we are navigating the implications of funding shrinking funding from key partners. The African member

States reaffirms their commitments to financial sustainability of the organization. We welcome the initiative to increase assessed contributions and call on all Member States and regions to join hands in ensuring predictable and adequate financing to empower WHO to fulfil its vital mandate. We call on all high-income countries to reaffirm their commitment to WHO and ensure that their financial contributions help support health initiatives across the globe

Chair, African region supports WHO's prioritization and restructuring efforts, recognizing the urgent need to respond to the changing funding landscape while preserving the integrity and unity of the organization. It is crucial that Member States make deliberate, balanced decisions that uphold WHO's core mandates and avoid fragmentation during this time of global turbulence.

We remain steadfast in our commitments to prioritizing the health and wellbeing of our populations, in alignment with the principles of solidarity, equity, and global health security.

Thank you.