We take note of the report of the Director General on ‘Integrated people-centred eye care, including preventable vision impairment blindness’. We thank the team of the Director General for the recommendations on two feasible targets for 2030 including effective coverage of refractive errors and effective coverage of cataract surgery.

We are happy to note that the recommended targets were determined through a broad based consultation. The targets are expedient and well defined. However, my delegation would like to request the Secretariat to consider developing a monitoring framework and a tool for collection of data with regard to the efforts made by Member States and the WHO in achieving the targets.

Mr. Chair,

The economies around the world have been under tremendous strain during the Covid-19 pandemic. For developing economies, the pandemic has been more ravaging. Hence, in the definition of the targets, a separate qualification need to be added for the developing countries. Also, we would
request the Secretariat to keep provisions for providing technical support to the countries to reach the targets.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.