Statement by the Government of Bangladesh

148th Session of WHO Executive Board
Date: Tuesday, 19 January 2021

Item-14.2: WHO’s work in health emergencies

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

We take note of report of the Director General on ‘WHO’s Work in Health Emergencies’. We congratulate the Director General and his team for detailing the efforts being made by the WHO to extend maximum possible assistance to help the governments across the continents contain and come out of the predicament caused by particularly, the Covid-19 pandemic and outbreak of other diseases like Ebola Virus.

In this difficult time of the once-in-100-year Covid-19 pandemic, the material support, technical assistance, technological know-how etc. mobilized by the WHO to support the governments across the continents are as such, critically important. WHO’s extensive drive as well as committed support to embolden and prepare the health systems, increase the coverage and quality of health services for better outcomes, respond to the graded and protracted emergencies emanating from particularly, the Covid-19 pandemic and outbreak of Ebola deserve special mention. While WHO continue to work in tandem with the governments and international organizations to address the Covid-19 issues, efforts need to be redoubled to engage with the commercial and business entities to ensure the access to medicines, vaccines and other exigent auxiliary tools at an affordable cost by the developing countries. This apart, focus must be enhanced to ensure need based, fair and equitable distribution of vaccines and medicines in all coordinates of the globe.

The open access learning platform, tools, programme and technical guidance of the WHO on the Covid-19 pandemic have been undeniably, useful to the health systems particularly, in the developing countries and hard-to-reach areas of the world. As the spread of the infection from the Coronavirus continue to remain unabated, the strategic preparedness and plan in this
regard appear to be lesser shining and require further improvement for better outcomes.

Mr. Chair,

WHO’s ‘Zero Tolerance policy’ on sexual exploitation by its personnel is to be fully realized as the institutions’ reputation is marred of late in DR Congo. Justice to the victims must be rendered in due process to avert any future embarrassment of the WHO as an institution.

Mr. Chair,

Some conflict-stricken zones in the globe including DR Congo, South Sudan, Syrian Arb Republic and Yemen may continue to remain the breeding points of untenable health emergencies in the coming days as well. This may upset the global efforts and success to contain and get rid of the Covid-19 and other pandemic/endemic diseases. WHO’s engagement in this regard with the international and national entities must be enhanced to garner global support and mobilize resources to ensure visible and effective measures in those parts of the world.

I thank you.

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