Mr. Chair,
Director-General Dr. Tedros,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We thank WHO Secretariat for sharing the proposed programme budget 2022-2023 and report on sustainable financing.

Mr. Chair,

02. We welcome the proposal of 19% and 5% increment of the base and total programme budget, respectively, for 2022-2023. We echo with the PBAC and request WHO to provide a breakdown how the increased budget would be allocated per WHO region and the proportion of the increase that would be allocated to countries. We note that importance has been attached to taking advantage of the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic in the proposed budget. This is commendable.

03. The outbreak of the COVID-19 has affected almost all the sectors. The WHO’s routine and pre-planned work has been substantially disrupted. Bangladesh recognizes that the thirteenth General Programme of Work provides strategic guidance to the work of the WHO and supports the proposed extension for it from 2023 to 2025 in the context of the COVID 19 pandemic. However, we would also wish to
advise the WHO to take into account the WHO transformation strategy while implementing the GPW and refine its strategies and approaches accordingly for better delivery and outcomes.

Mr. Chair,

03. My delegation has consistently underlined the need of a predictable and sustainable funding for the WHO’s better and timely performance and asks WHO to continue its efforts in this regard in close collaboration with the Member States. We request the Secretariat to keep the underfunded areas such as health emergencies and healthier populations in its priority agenda. Bangladesh appreciates sustainable financing approach and the proposal to establish a working group on sustainable financing composed of Member States. We hope the working group would address the funding challenges properly faced by the WHO.

Mr. Chair,

04. To conclude, I would like to draw your kind attention to the fact that Bangladesh has been heavily impacted by the unprecedented and massive influx of 1.1 million forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals. We admire WHO’s support to the Government of Bangladesh in extending healthcare services to this ill-fated population. We urge WHO to increase budgetary allocation and continue its support to the Rohingya populations until their safe, dignified, and voluntary return to their homes in Myanmar.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.