Thank you, Mr. Chair,

We appreciate WHO for drafting the Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030. We also thank the Director-General for his report summarizing the strategic elements of the proposed Action Plan.

Patient safety is the fundamental cornerstone of healthcare services. It is an essential component of universal health coverage and the sustainable development goals. We must make sure that no one is harmed in health care, and every patient receives safe and respectful care, every time, everywhere. Therefore, as a global health priority, patient safety deserves urgent attention and concerted action.

The COVID-19 pandemic provides a stark reminder of the importance of patient safety issues like personal protection, health worker safety, medication safety and patient engagement. The report also rightly pointed out that the pandemic has exposed the vulnerabilities of health systems, including in terms of patient safety. We hope that the proposed Action Plan would guide us to make the necessary investment and track progress across different interventions related to patient safety while strengthening our health systems.

The Government of Bangladesh is closely working with WHO for the implementation of global and regional patient safety strategies and activities. We have already created a web portal on pharmacovigilance reporting. We have also developed an injection safety guideline. Currently, we are in the process of installing haemovigilance system in health facilities.

Mr. Chair,

Now, I would like to make five specific points with regard to the proposed Action Plan:
First, it would be crucial for the countries to appropriately assess and analyze their situation for identifying areas of progress which can be strengthened, as well as policy opportunities and practice gaps in view of national contexts and priorities.

Second, there is a need of raising awareness among all sections of people to promote patient safety that many of our health systems fall short.

Third, sustained multisectoral and multinational collaboration and partnership would be instrumental in the implementation of the Action Plan in order to improve patient safety and quality of care.

Fourth, sharing of good practices, success stories and lessons learned in the implementation of the Action Plan would contribute further to ensuring patient safety through scale-up or replication of those practices by others.

And finally, the measurement of progress across different strategic and operational levels would be quite challenging without technical support, particularly in low-resource settings.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.

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