Mr. Chair,

Brazil thanks WHO, the Independent Panel, the IHR Review Committee and the IAOC for their reports and presentations.

As decided by the Member States in Resolution WHA 73.1, an impartial, independent and comprehensive review of the international response to COVID-19 is of utmost importance and urgency.

Brazil has been engaged in the discussions on strengthening WHO and its Emergencies Program.

We co-sponsored the “WHO Roadmap” proposed by the United States, as a starting point for a better organization WHO.

We have been active in the negotiations of the draft decision introduced by the European Union, which Brazil supports/co-sponsors. And we will continue to be so, in the run up to the Assembly in May.
The Member States and the secretariat have an opportunity and a duty:

- to make WHO more accountable and transparent;

- to strengthen the oversight and decision-making roles by the Member States, so that the WHO becomes more – not less – responsive to the whole Membership;

- to clarify mandates;

- to foster mutual confidence as the basis for enhanced cooperation among the Member States to timely and full implementation of our IHR responsibilities;

- to put the equitable access to safe, affordable, efficacious, quality-assured medicines and other health products at the center of every WHO effort; and

- to make a more efficient use of WHO available resources, while also fully aligning all its funding to the priorities set by the whole Membership (and not just a few).

Mr. Chair,

In parallel to the review processes and the intergovernmental negotiations, the Secretariat has advanced some
initiatives, such as the pilot-phase for the “Health and Preparedness Review” and the “BioHub”.

Such initiatives would have greatly benefited from previous discussions with all Member States.

That would avoid undesirable duplication of efforts or pre-empting and prejudging the results of on-going negotiations led by the Member States.

Let us not risk creating a WHO à la carte, where those who can pay more are given a better place at the table.

Mr. Chair,

Brazil would appreciate if the secretariat could provide details on the expansion of networks for pathogen sharing, in particular the creation of the “BioHub. We note, in passing, that many countries do have capacity and technology to act as hosts of samples, whereby collaborative structures could be a more inclusive way forward.

We also wish to have more information on the envisaged strategy to integrate the fight against arboviroses.

Thank you.