Mr. Chair,

Last Tuesday, President Ellen Sirleaf, co-chair of the Independent Panel, delivered a clear and strong message: the blatant inequities in the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines across countries demonstrate why access to health products should be the cornerstone of our effort to provide health for all.

Access to medicines is key:

- to achieve universal health coverage;

- to sustain adequate levels of preparedness and response to health emergencies;

- to defeat old, new and emerging diseases and other health challenges.

Access to affordable, safe, efficacious and quality-assured medicines is a condition for sustainable and resilient health systems.
And it will be more and more so, as countries recover from the pandemic with a heavier fiscal burden and increased demands for health care – not to mention the ageing of population and the costs of more advanced life-saving health solutions.

It will be more and more so, as we progress in addressing the AMR shortcomings. It is as simple as that: How are we going to solve antimicrobial resistance without having access to medicines? The new medicines – so important and urgent to save livers – are good for nothing if they do not reach those in need.

Mr. Chair,

Member States and the WHO developed, back in 2008-2009, a strong and comprehensive tool to tackle this challenge: the Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property.

Brazil reiterates its long-standing call for the full implementation of the GSPOA.

Last December, consultations convened in accordance with Decision WHA 73(11) illustrated that such goal is well within reach, even for the more complex issues, if everyone displays good will and engage.
We urge the secretariat to speed up the deployment of the Implementation Plan, with the appropriate level of funding and in synergy with the Roadmap on Access to Medicines and relevant WHA resolutions.

As the final year of the current Strategy approaches, we also look forward to further consultations to help it bear its much-needed fruits, by means of cooperation and dialogue.

In closing, Brazil commends Ethiopia for tabling the draft resolution on the promotion of local production of health products, which we support. Brazil asks to be added to the list of co-sponsors.

Expanding and diversifying the landscape for development and manufacturing of health products is a must and a great contribution to more competition and enhanced resilience of health systems.

Brazil is ready to participate in the additional efforts to build a meaningful consensus on the draft by the next WHA.

Thank you.