AFRICA REGIONAL STATEMENT PREPARED BY GHANA

17.2 Update on the financing and implementation of the Programme budget 2020-2021 (Document EB148/27)

17.1 Proposed programme budget 2022-2023 (Documents EB148/25 and EB148/25 Add.1)

Thank you Chair,

This statement is made on behalf of the 47 Member States of the Africa Region.

We thank the DG for a good report, and note with satisfaction the significant improvements in the utilization of the approved Programme Budget 2020-2021 and the appreciable increases in resources invested in WHO.

We commend the secretariat for responding positively to calls for a more equitable distribution of funding across major & country offices, including the outcomes of the GPW13.

We call for the inclusion in future reports of the PB, a summary of the benefits and challenges from the following interventions:

i) regular review of distribution of global voluntary contributions;

ii) implementation of a contributor engagement management system; and

iii) strengthening review of donor proposals and agreements to ensure alignment with the GPW13;

Chair,

The DG’s report reveals that WHO Africa Region’s capacity to utilize available resources (51%) is significantly higher than the organisational average of 45%; underscoring the region’s significant successes in reducing the incidence of malaria, tuberculosis and new HIV infections, as well as the deaths of children and expectant mothers.

It is therefore troubling to see the region suffer the largest financing shortfall of $483 million, representing about half of the region’s approved
budget for base programmes. We call on the Director-General to take urgent steps to address this huge funding gap to avert reversals of gains made in the region.

We commend the Secretariat for a good Programme Budget 2022-2023, which takes into account the goals of WHO and the aspirations of its 194 Member States as they relate to the triple billion targets and the Health-related SDGs.

We support the 4 key strategic focus areas of the budget and the overall direction of its 3 strategic priorities on universal health coverage, health emergencies, and healthy lives.

We support the proposed increases in the 3 budgetary streams – i.e. implementation of lessons learned from COVID-19, delivering transformation agenda across the organization and mainstreaming essential public health functions carried out by the polio eradication programme;

Having said that, it is worth noting the impact we seek through the PB is to be made at the country level. In that regard, we call on the secretariat to keep countries and people at the centre of all decisions and to allocate the largest portion of budgetary resources for country offices to enable them address the huge capacity gaps that militate against their ability to effectively support countries.

We note the report on Progress towards achieving the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, contained in document EB148/25 Add.1, and commend progress made by WHO in meeting some of the indicators on gender equality and the empowerment of women, while striving to meet many other indicators. We call for progress on indicators that have been missed, especially on Capacity assessment, an indicator that was missed in 2019 and 2020.

I thank you for your attention.