Thank you, Chair for the opportunity to make this statement on behalf of the 47 Member States of the Africa Region.

We thank the Programme Budget and Administration Committee (PBAC) for a concise report, which makes specific recommendations to guide the Secretariat’s follow-up action on management, resource mobilization and allocation, accountability, recruitment, technology and gender equality, among others.

We appreciate the updates on the implementation of PBAC recommendations provided by the secretariat through Governing Bodies meetings and commend the active engagement with Member States on the development of the Programme Budget.

It is worth emphasizing that the main goal of the GPW13 and the Proposed Programme Budget 2022-2023 is to make measurable impacts on people’s health at the country level. This goal is also at the heart of WHO’s mission to transform the future of public health. 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 programmes at the country level, to enable country offices address the huge capacity gaps that militate against their ability to effectively support countries.

On sustainable financing, we support the call by Germany and other delegations to match Member States’ expectations of what WHO should do, with the resources provided to the organization.

We welcome the reports and updates of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee (IEOAC), the Global Preparedness Monitoring Board and the DG’s updates on WHO Transformation, Information management and Technology and measures to address sexual abuse and exploitation.
In supporting the draft decision by Australia and others on “Preventing sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment” contained in document EB148/CONF./6, we note that sexual abuses take place in other WHO Regions and country offices, not just in the DRC. We therefor call for a holistic review and reinforcement of existing mechanisms for preventing and addressing such abuses across all 3 levels of the organisation.

In that regard, we wish to propose an amendment to OP3 of the draft decision, to make it relevant for all ongoing and future investigations into allegations of sexual misconduct, without limiting its application only to the case of the DRC.

.............. including progress on all ongoing investigations into Allegations of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, and the implementation of recommendations from the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Senior Support Missions.

We support the adoption of the report of PBAC33 and join other delegations in requesting the secretariat to endeavor to release documents for future meetings early, to allow member states adequate time to study them before meetings.

I thank you.