Thank you Chair,

At the outset, we would like to express our appreciation to the Secretariat for Report Indonesia align itself with the statement made by Bangladesh on behalf of the SEAR Countries.

We would like to reiterate our deep concern that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted negatively to the mental health of the population, in which it has not been addressed enough.

In this regard, we support the need to include mental health preparedness and response in public health emergencies response.

There have been many cases in which health workers mental health has been aggravated due to the high COVID-19 cases, death rate, workload, as well as the lack of personal protective equipment.

This brings new challenge in protecting health workers and first responders during the pandemic, in which some of them have lost their lives.

We condemn any attack to health workers, especially during their noble work at community level.

On the other hand, Chair, mental health problem has also been exacerbated in the wider population due to the implementation of physical distancing strategies.

It is also impacted by quarantine procedures for those who have been exposed to or infected with COVID-19 as a means to reduce the transmission of the virus.

This social isolation along with the loss of income, anxiety, and bereavement also triggered psychological problem among communities.

Chair,

While mental health cases rise due to the pandemic, mental health services have been significantly disrupted in the red zones in a few big cities.

In our case, psychiatric hospitals are among the most susceptible places to the spread of the COVID-19.
The enclosed living quarters and contacts within mental health units increase the possibility for transmission.

To address this, Indonesia has developed standard operational procedures, as well as protocols on mental health services and psychosocial support system during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly for healthcare and social workers.

To facilitate wider access for the community, we have also developed a mobile application that provides mental health services, including information on nearby mental health services and questionnaires for assessing mental health.

This optimization of telemedicine utilization has been advantageous to increase access to mental healthcare services and improve patient engagement.

Chair,

As a final point, my delegation supports the draft decision on mental health for public health emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic as proposed by the Government of Thailand.

Solidarity at the global level is a must in promoting Mental Health Preparedness and Responding to Public Health Emergencies.

Thank you, Chair.