Thank you, Chair.

Indonesia would like to thank the Secretariat for having prepared the document for this Agenda Item.

We take note that the current Process of the Election of the Director-General of the WHO is the result of adjustments made by the Executive Board and the World Health Assembly since 2012. We recognize that the adjustments have been made to ensure fair and transparent elections for the benefit of both member states of the WHO as well as the candidates for office. In this regard, we would like to comment on several elements of the current proposed arrangements.

We welcome the decision to put internal candidates who are not elected officials on leave to ensure a clear separation between their campaign activities and their service for WHO. In this spirit, we also welcome that regional committees’ official programmes are not expected to include campaigning activities.

In turn, we welcome the candidates’ forums as the space to make the candidates and their vision known to Member States on an equal basis.

We take note that the first candidates’ forum will be held by mid-November 2021 and welcome the arrangements for the first candidates’ forum as detailed in Annex 2.

As to the possible format of the second candidates’ forum, Indonesia supports Option Three, which allows Member States and Associate States to submit written questions in advance to be drawn by lot and posed to the candidates, followed by an interactive discussion. We believe this option will best display the candidates’ potentials and depth of insight while being responsive to the issues of interest of the Member States.

As to the matter of the possible use of optical scanners to tally the vote, we look forward to receiving the detailed study on the cost–benefit analysis and technical evaluation of the scanners, to be presented at the 74th World Health Assembly.

To conclude, Indonesia supports the draft decision under this Agenda Item.

Thank you, Chair.