Thank you, Chairperson and a Happy 2021 to all WHO Member States.

1. Kenya aligns with the statement delivered by Burkina Faso on behalf of the African Member States.

2. Kenya thanks the Director General for his report and takes this opportunity to commend the DG and the entire WHO Secretariat for their commitment in coordinating the global public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. Like most countries, Kenya is coordinating a national response to the COVID-19 outbreak and we are grateful that the actions of our population in following the recommended public health measures have borne fruit, with Kenya now recording fewer number of cases and deaths for past few weeks.

4. Chairperson, Kenya welcomes the recent emergency use authorisation by WHO on some COVID-19 vaccines and takes note of the disproportionate roll out of covid-19 vaccines across the world.

5. Given the catastrophic impact that the virus has had on lives and livelihoods so far, coupled with emerging threats of new variant strains, Kenya calls for WHO, Member States and all international actors to work together to guarantee fair and equitable access to available Covid-19 vaccines. We regret to note that history is repeating itself yet again and calls for global solidarity going silent over vaccine delivery and distribution to low- and middle-income countries.

6. As a member of the COVAX facility Advance Market Commitment, Kenya continues to support calls for vaccine manufacturers to swiftly facilitate the transfer of the required technology and know-how to other manufacturers, so as to end the acute phase of the pandemic. Through the relevant UN organs, we also support initiatives aimed at easing intellectual property rights which pose barriers to access to affordable medicines and vaccines for vulnerable people around the world.
7. In conclusion Chairperson, Kenya welcomes the preparation of the WHO programme budget and takes note of the proposed four key strategic themes. We request the Secretariat to maintain the GPW13 focus on equity and progress towards Universal Health Coverage, as we accommodate the emerging priorities brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. We stand ready to support the process and request the Director General to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are factored into the next budget.

8. I thank you.