Mr Chairman, Zambia joins other member states in welcoming the USA’s new administration’s renewed commitment to multilateralism.

Chairperson, Zambia fully aligns with the Statement made by Kenya on behalf of the Africa Region on this agenda item.

We wish to commend the Secretariat for the report.

In 2017 WHO published a report in which it sited the incidence of substandard and falsified medical products being as high as 10% in developing countries like Zambia.

As already noted, this problem is likely to be more rampant in situations where:

- Access to affordable, quality, safe and effective medical products is constrained, especially at the point of care, leaving patients to seek alternative sources;
- The tools and technical capacity to ensure good practices in manufacturing, quality control and distribution are limited;
- Sale of medicines via internet has limited or no control;
- Weak technical capabilities within the regulatory system;
- inadequacy of good laboratory and surveillance systems;

Due to the magnitude of the problem, no single country has enough resources and capability to efficiently and effectively regulate the whole supply chain system alone in this globalized world. We therefore fully support WHO’s global mechanism on substandard and falsified medical products

We also urge the Secretariat to work with relevant stakeholders at all levels, such as the African Medicines Agency (AMA), as well as individual National Medicines Regulatory Agencies and support them in strengthening regulation of their respective markets.

I thank you