Thank you Chairperson.

Zambia aligns this statement to that made by Botswana on behalf of the Africa Region.

Chairperson, Zambia commends the efforts highlighted in the reports, especially the ACT-A in general and the COVAX-AMC facility in particular, the C-TAP and all the initiatives.

As the Director General rightly observed in the report, we, however, still experience inequities even amidst the progress made, particularly among the most vulnerable members of our society. As is the case with many African countries, Zambia has experienced an upswing in cases and deaths from COVID-19 more especially with the second wave, underscoring the importance of ensuring the COVAX-AMC facility attains the purpose for which it was established.

Lastly, we recognize the efforts of the Secretariat led by the Director General, in supporting Member States, and applaud their commitment to redouble efforts in the ongoing impartial, independent and comprehensive evaluation work of the Review Committee on the Functioning of the International Health Regulations (2005) during the COVID-19 Response, and the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme, and the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response.

In this regard Zambia supports the draft decision introduced by the EU delegation and requests to be included on the list of co-sponsors.

I thank you