Agenda Item:
11.1 Draft thirteenth general programme of work, 2019–2023

Statement:

This statement is on behalf of Global Health Council, supported by ACTION Global Health Advocacy Partnership and Pathfinder International. We applaud Director-General Tedros’ commitment to achieving UHC, the renewed focus on public health preparedness, and the emphasis on healthy populations through better health and well-being.

As these three goals are interconnected, and will realize other global health commitments, we emphasize that the GPW prioritizes stronger and more resilient health systems. This means equitable access to the entire spectrum of health care services, nutrition, and addressing the needs of women, children and adolescents, must be at the center of achieving health for all. Moreover, universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights is key to gender equality and women’s economic empowerment.

To achieve these goals, the GPW must reflect the reality of the global health architecture within WHO and with other global health partnerships and institutions to ensure appropriate implementation.

Specifically, it must recognize the significant changes underway as the Global Polio Eradication Initiative winds-down in all non-polio endemic countries. This fundamentally changes historically polio funded essential immunization and health services. If not managed correctly, instability will ensue in health systems, thereby threatening global health security.

We recognize WHO’s progress on transition planning, but it must further outline its country-level support and partner engagement plans to generate evidence based tailored country targets. This must be done sustainably, equitably, and with the necessary staff and resources.

Lastly, while we commend WHO’s efforts to act jointly with partners, including CSOs, using FENSA, we highly encourage the Director-General to emphasize data and monitoring while increasing WHO transparency as a result of its reform process and operationalization of the GPW to support evidence based advocacy campaigns.