

Agenda item 3(i) Health surveillance

Madam Co-chair,

The United Republic of Tanzania on behalf of the Africa region represented by 54 countries. We would like to emphasize the importance of health surveillance systems for preventing and protecting human health from chemical exposures. Data from health surveillance are vital to effectively support the implementation of prevention strategies nationally, regionally, and internationally.

Madam Co-chair,

African countries experience deaths related to exposure to chemicals, for example pesticides, and rely on data from poisoning centers to identify which chemicals are problematic and require policy interventions. The region

acknowledges that the Framework provides an important mechanism for multisectoral cooperation, in which the health sector plays a critical role and offers unique expertise in the sound management of chemicals and waste. To meet Target A6, where all countries have access to poison centers, the Africa region invites IOMC to specifically include clear mechanisms to support the institutional strengthening of linkages between poison centers and responsible ministries in Implementation Programme 1.

Madam Co-chair,

The Africa region welcomes the World Health Organization's 2025 update of the Chemicals Road Map and stands ready to support the updating process, while also calling on GFC stakeholders to actively engage in this process. We also encourage the clear integration of the Chemicals Road Map into the GFC implementation programmers'.

Madam Co-chair,

To further action the implementation of resolution V/10, and ensure adequate data for health relevant targets and indicators, the Africa region calls on the Secretariat to initiate engagement with GFC stakeholders on opportunities for collecting health surveillance data in countries where current systems are weak or lacking.

In conclusion, the Africa region is convinced that strengthening the role of and support for the health sector within the Framework is key to the success of meeting many of its targets. We, therefore, stand ready to support the active participations of the health sector in meeting the GFC targets.

I thank you Madam Co-Chair