



MINISTER'S SPEAKING NOTES: RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Chairperson,

1. We welcome the Report from the Regional Director, Dr Moeti, on work done in 2019/20, especially the urgency and agility with which the region as well as HQ have been working with the African countries in understanding and dealing with the Covid-19.
2. COVID-19 has removed any doubt that the implementation of universal health coverage is key to strengthening health systems.
3. The HIV and AIDS programme experienced treatment interruptions and difficult access to facilities for the patients, especially during the lockdown period. We are pleased however that we have revived these programmes as we have identified that essential health must never neglected. We continue to work towards achieving our 90-90-90 goals that we have set.
4. Lessons learnt from Covid 19 is the need to continuously promote health and well-being. South Africa continue to

face increasingly challenges Non Communicable diseases. We therefore are prioritising eating nutritious foods, increased physical activity, eliminating tobacco use as well as reducing alcohol use.

5. Chairperson, let me take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude as a country to the WHO for the collaboration with key partners such as the African Union for the creation of a platform to facilitate procurement of personal protective equipment for the region. In addition and importantly, for providing 43 technical experts to reinforce our COVID-19 response.
6. I Thank you.