**TALKING POINTS – CERVICAL CANCER RESOLUTION**

* The World Health Assembly resolution on cervical cancer prevention and control, *Accelerating the Elimination of Cervical Cancer as a Public Health Problem*, has been endorsed by Member States of the World Health Organization (WHO).
* The resolution will enhance action towards the global elimination of cervical cancer and support the implementation of national cervical cancer control plans, with three interim targets for 2030.[[1]](#footnote-1)
* The cervical cancer resolution highlights how combating cervical cancer as a public health problem helps tackle inequities in the rights of women and adolescent girls, including their sexual and reproductive health.
* Women in less developed countries and women with a low-income within countries are most affected by cervical cancer.
* Women living with HIV have a 4-10 times higher risk of developing cervical cancer and at a younger age.
* Supporting equity is an important consideration on the pathway to eliminating cervical cancer. This includes addressing the geographic barriers to treatment and care that many rural communities face as well as providing culturally appropriate care.
* Taking action to embrace WHO’s global strategy will advance women’s health, strengthen health systems and address inequities between and within countries, placing countries on the road to eliminating cervical cancer.
* With the COVID-19 pandemic preventing the 73rd World Health Assembly from convening in-person in Geneva in May as usual, this and other resolutions were adopted through a ‘silence procedure’ process.

Replace with talking points from your region:

* Women’s cancers are dominating the cancer landscape in Africa. Cervical cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in African women, topping the ranking in 24 of 54 countries and second in the remaining countries.
* In 2018, an estimated [119,284 new cases](https://gco.iarc.fr/today/data/factsheets/populations/903-africa-fact-sheets.pdf) of cervical cancer were diagnosed in Africa. Over one third of all cervical cancer deaths globally occur in sub-Saharan Africa, though the region represents only 14% of the world female population.
* The cervical cancer burden differs widely across the African region, but some countries, including Zambia, top the global burden ranking with 70-80/100.000 women being diagnosed annually.

1. 90% of girls are fully vaccinated with the human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine by 15 years of age; 70% of women are screened with a high-precision test at 35 and 45 years of age ; and 90% of women identified with the cervical disease receive treatment and care. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)