



**STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA  
150<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE WHO'S EXECUTIVE BOARD  
24 – 29 JANUARY 2022**

**Agenda Item No. : 11, 12 & 13**  
**Title : Immunization Agenda 2030**  
**Infection Prevention & Control**  
**Global road map on defeating meningitis by 2030**  
**Ref. Document : EB150/11, EB 150/12, EB 150/13**

Thank you Chair,

1. Malaysia takes note of the progress on the implementation of the Immunization Agenda 2030.
2. Immunization is well recognized as one of the most cost-effective public health measures in prevention and control of severe infectious diseases. Hence, the need for an uninterrupted supply of affordable vaccines. The COVID-19 pandemic impact on disruption of vaccine supply leading to interruption of immunization service delivery has also affected Malaysia. As more countries introduce HPV vaccines in their national immunization programs, and the negative impact of the pandemic

on HPV vaccine manufacturing capacities, Malaysia too experiences HPV vaccine supply shortage.

3. Vaccine affordability has also become an issue, as HPV vaccine suppliers could not supply HPV 2-valent and HPV 4-valent vaccines, and only the higher-priced HPV 9-valent vaccines were offered. Other countries may experience similar issues; hence vaccine affordability is a pertinent issue to be given attention to.
4. While it is important to conduct catch-up vaccination activities to optimize vaccination coverage especially for vaccines that were affected due to COVID-19 pandemic, it is equally important to ensure not just adequate but also affordable vaccine supply. Although a lot of focus is being given to COVID-19 vaccination rollout, equal attention, priority, and commitment should also be given to improving and optimizing coverage of other existing vaccines. As we know, vaccine shortages, even for a short period of time might increase risk of vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs) to surge and cause morbidity and mortality among vulnerable persons.
5. Malaysia also takes note of the report by the Director-General on WHO's recent activities and proposed priority actions aimed at improving the implementation of Infection Prevention & Control programmes. Infection prevention and control (IPC) best practices are vital in ensuring patient and healthcare worker's safety thus we commend WHO for its role in spearheading the global response on IPC.

6. Malaysia strongly supports WHO's current initiatives related to IPC which were passed through Health Assembly resolutions which include Quality Care for All, Antimicrobial Resistance, Global Patient Safety, International Health Regulations (2005), Water, Sanitation, Hygiene efforts (WASH), and Prevention and Management of Sepsis.
7. On the agenda of Global Road Map on Defeating meningitis by 2030 , Malaysia commends WHO and its global health partners for their efforts in the fight against preventing this debilitating disease
8. Strengthening meningitis vaccination as encompassed in the visions of the road map will be an effective strategy to defeat meningitis. Inclusion of Haemophilus influenzae type b vaccine, pneumococcal conjugate vaccine and BCG vaccine in the National Immunisation Programme as well as the use of meningococcal vaccines for high-risk groups such as travelers has proven effective in preventing meningitis in Malaysia. Meningococcal quadrivalent (ACYW-135) polysaccharide vaccine is compulsory for all Prospect Hajj (PH) pilgrims and the Government of Malaysia gives it to all pilgrims free of charge.
9. In adherence to the strategies within the road map, Malaysia will continue to engage with private partners and non-government organizations such as the Malaysian Pediatrics Neurology Society and Pediatrics Infectious Disease Society to promote vaccination and carry out community education and empowerment to prevent meningitis and looks forward in collaborating with WHO, and

partners towards the road map's vision, visionary goals and its pillars.

Thank you.