



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

Agenda Item No : 8 and 9

Title : The global health sector strategies on HIV, viral hepatitis, and sexually transmitted infections

Global strategy for tuberculosis research and innovation

Ref. Document : EB150/8 and EB150/9

Intervention Note :

Thank you Chair,

1. Meeting the international obligations and targets for HIV, viral hepatitis and STI is a critical part of Malaysia's response. Malaysia is committed to and supports the WHO's Global Health Sector Strategy (GHSS) on HIV, viral hepatitis, and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) 2022–2030, which has an overarching goal of ending HIV and viral hepatitis and STIs epidemics as major public health concerns in 2030. Given Malaysia's strong integrated health systems and long history of a smart partnership approach with the non-government organizations (NGOs) in tackling HIV, we believe that reaching 2030 targets for viral hepatitis and STIs will be of great ease.

2. Malaysia will update its existing National Strategic Plan for Ending AIDS 2016-2030 and National Strategic Plan for Viral Hepatitis 2018-2030 in keeping abreast of the current GHSS for HIV, Syphilis, and Hepatitis C 2022-2030.
3. We have achieved the dual elimination of mother-to-child transmission (eMTCT) for HIV and Syphilis in 2018, and we look forward to achieving triple eliminations in the years to come as we plan to implement hepatitis B screening among antenatal mothers soon.
4. Malaysia has taken initiatives to scale up the testing and treatment of hepatitis C through decentralization of these services, from just 25 to 146 centers between 2019 and 2021. To treat the 'missing millions', the Malaysian Cabinet has approved the use of the Rights of Government under the Patent Act 1983 (Act 291) for the procurement of Sofosbuvir at an affordable price in 2017. On a more recent development in last June 2021, Malaysia became the first country in the world to approve the use of Ravidasvir Hydrochloride (200mg) as part of combination treatment for chronic Hepatitis C infection. This approval is expected to increase the number of hepatitis C patients receiving treatment.
5. On the topic of TB, the COVID-19 pandemic has also affected TB services in Malaysia. The TB notification rates had reduced by 10% between 2019 and 2020. TB death has also increased by

5%. With regards to drug-resistant TB, there was a 30% increase in the number of cases notified and enrolled in second-line TB treatment. Malaysia is reporting around 20-21% of latent TB infections annually, which has a potential risk to become an active TB in later years. However, TB preventive treatment uptake is still slow which is around 60% for the year 2020. Malaysia will continue to strengthen the latent TB screening for the selected high-risk groups identified and will continue to provide TB Preventive Therapy (TPT), in line with the latest recommendation by WHO TPT program.

6. Malaysia supports the implementation of the global strategy for tuberculosis (TB) research and innovation. Malaysia has strong government leadership to mobilize domestic resources and foster public-private partnership for effective TB control program. However, more engagement is needed with health product developers, pharmaceutical companies, and biotechnology to expand the new TB tools. Malaysia is very much aware of the high risk the COVID-19 pandemic poses with regards to reversing the gains made to date on ending tuberculosis (TB), and the urgent need for innovative solutions to address the clinical, social, and economic determinants of the disease. Malaysia is committed to scaling up on every aspect of technological advances to reach the End TB by 2035
7. We will continue our support and strong partnership with the NGOs, key and affected populations in our battle against HIV, viral hepatitis, STIs and TB through government annual funds for NGOs. As controlling and ending the COVID-19 pandemic is the

main focus globally and by governments, it is of utmost importance that we continue to make further positive progress on the prevention and control of these diseases so that we do not reverse the gains made over the years.

Thank you.