

## **Statement of I.R. Iran on “Polio transition planning and polio post-certification”**

**Mr /Madam Chairperson,**

We appreciate WHI for developing this important document. We would like to share a few important points as following:

The I.R. Iran recognizes that polio continues to pose a public health threat globally but especially in EM region. Iran is polio free, but our country is a neighbor of two polio endemic countries. Therefore, it is imperative that it receives a significant attention.

The Eastern Mediterranean Region hosts many conflict-affected countries and this region requires a risk-based approach to polio transition. Hence, we completely agree with this approach.

- Adequate allocation of resources for polio eradication is critical, particularly in low-income countries that have experienced conflicts and other complex emergencies for several years. The resources, combined with technical approaches, would enhance progress towards polio eradication.
- We believe that cross-border collaboration is fundamental to realize public health strategies in controlling polio.

Two successful strategies taken by I.R.Iran are:

- Locally manufactured oral polio vaccines that have empowered the country to scale up the polio immunization efforts.
- Recently, Iran has hosted two “G5” or Group of Five events, bringing together Afghanistan, Iraq, and Pakistan, in collaboration with the WHO and Tajikistan as an observer, which is important for cross-border collaborations.

Our Recommendations are:

- There are countries that are vulnerable and require significant resources. In these countries there are basic elements that still need to be solidified (e.g., technical competencies, human resources, management issues), before the transition can actually take place.
- Polio transition should be done carefully, by insightful consideration of certain health indicators, to protect surrounding countries to endemic ones.

Thank you