

**Statement of the Islamic Republic of Iran at WHA76 on**  
**"WHO Global Action Plan on Promoting the Health of Refugees and**  
**Migrants, 2019-2023"**

**AND**

**"WHO traditional medicine strategy"**

**Madam Chair,**

The Islamic Republic of Iran has been hosting millions of Afghans for the last 4 decades. Despite financial constraints and narrow humanitarian space caused by unilateral coercive measures, the Government has managed to provide Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers, to the extent possible, with livelihood, health, and education, mostly through limited national resources.

According to the UNHCR, and I quote: "Iran is one of only a handful of countries in the world that generously offer refugees the option to enroll in national health insurance for essential secondary and tertiary public health services in the same way as Iranian nationals" end of quote.

However, the continuous influx of the displaced people into Iran is imposing an additional burden on existing services and resources, such as education, health services and access to water, overstressing the capacities of the national and local systems.

The I.R of Iran has not spared any effort to protect the refugees and the displaced persons, in particular during the difficult times of the COVID pandemic. The government implemented nationwide vaccination of the foreign nationals, residing in the country, against Covid-19, regardless of their legal status—in the midst of global vaccine shortages.

Iran managed to implement a combination of interventions to the benefit of the refugees, such as vaccination campaigns for polio and measles, tuberculosis and malaria screening with the Location/Population approach in 2023, in addition to previous campaigns on non-communicable diseases, including diabetes and blood pressure

I would like to take this opportunity to recall the importance of burden- and responsibility-sharing in responding to the health and social care needs of refugees and asylum seekers. As mass influx place unduly heavy burdens on certain host countries, all States should, within the framework of international cooperation, global solidarity and burdensharing, take all necessary measures to support the affected States by mass influx. Such supports shall be rendered in a manner compatible with national laws, policies and plans of the host countries.

The Islamic Republic of Iran siezes this opportunity to invite the international community to come up with establishing an efficient and effective international mechanism to support the affected countries by mass influx situations in ensuring the provision of comprehensive health services for refugees and their host communities.

To that end, sustainable international contributions to the national health systems of the host countries need to be enhanced with a view to improving the quantity and quality of health care services, including through developing broader health insurance schemes.

**Madam Chair,**

**On** the agenda item concerning the traditional medicine , we appreciate WHO traditional medicine strategies 2014-2023. As a country with a time-honored history of traditional medical practice, we would like to continue our engagement with WHO and Member States in further operationalizing the capabilities and potentials of traditional medicine to help respond to the emerging health needs.

**I** thank you.