

Israel

16.2 Ending violence against children through health systems strengthening and multisectoral approaches

Thank you Chair,

Children have the right to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. 1 out of 2 children suffer some form of violence each year.

At WHA74, Member States adopted the resolution on ending violence against children through health systems and multi-sectoral approaches, recognizing the importance of integrating violence prevention into health service provision, and highlighted the need for training of health workers, multi-sectoral collaboration and improved data.

Israel recognizes the importance of the role the health system in locating at-risk minors, and treating and preventing cases of child abuse and neglect.

Health professionals are legally obligated to report to the authorities suspected risk of harm to minors, and are guided by procedures designed to identify minors at risk and respond accordingly.

Israel agrees with WHO's emphasis on developing strategies on preventing violence against children. The Ministry of Health has provided a tutorial on the Ministry website, a training kit, and dedicated sessions for healthcare professionals. The Ministry is also launching a trauma

sensitivity training project in order to increase staff sensitivity to patients with a history of childhood trauma. These guidelines will be incorporated into a computerised detection tool, rolled out next year.

Child protection centres ensure investigation into suspected abuse is conducted safely in the presence of multidisciplinary teams that include doctors. Sexual abuse treatment centers are similarly staffed by pediatricians trained in the subject. The Ministry also develops frameworks for providing tailored psychological support to victims of childhood trauma.

Through its Mother and Child Clinics, the Ministry counsels mothers who are interviewed about postpartum depression ensuring direct interaction on a community level.

Looking ahead, the Director-General's office recently appointed an inter-ministerial committee which includes representatives from academia and civil society organizations. Among its initial recommendations are: advancing guidelines for medical staff; informing patients and family members about rights; unifying procedures; and implementing central reporting about employees with disciplinary offenses and criminal records.

We commend the WHO on developing The INSPIRE framework for ending violence against children and encourage WHO to support Member States in implementation of the strategies at the regional and country levels.

Chair, we stand ready to play our part.

I thank you.