Honourable chair,

Distinguished delegates,

Excellencies,

Sudan welcomes the report by the Director General and supports the Global Polio Eradication Initiative Polio Endgame Strategy 2019-2023. As reported cases have not ceased, Polio remains a global issue. In this regard I would like to take this opportunity and highlight Sudan’s key developments.

According to six international reviews, the AFP Surveillance system in Sudan is well developed and fully functional throughout the administrative levels (federal, state and district). Overall routine immunization coverage rate is more than 93% since 2016. Supplementary immunization activities scored more than 100% as reported coverage and above 97% finger marking coverage. Since 2014 however, only two sub-national immunization days (SNID) were conducted. Stopping NIDs will result in reduction of immunity among the population, while the danger of importation is always there as the wild virus is still occurring in 2 endemic countries. Sudan emphasizes the importance of the sustainability of NIDs.

A well formulated preparedness plan for importation was developed covering the three admin levels. This plan was reviewed and fine-tuning was done during the simulation exercise conducted in 2016, 2017 and 2019.

Final National Documentation for Regional Certification of Poliomyelitis Eradication was accepted by the EMR/RCC in its 29th meeting in Muscat/Oman in April 2015. Annual updates are continuously provided and the last one was in April 2019.

In the area of end game strategies the country is well advanced in its implementation: A switch from tOPV to bOPV in all vaccination posts was done since 2016. Inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) was reintroduced in the routine EPI in 2018. Transition plan was already formulated by support from WHO
team. The plan aims at integrating polio assets in the integrated Vaccine Preventable Diseases Surveillance (IVPDs) at all levels. It was agreed to:

- Use the experience provided by NIDs for polio in planning, implementation and control of other disease initiatives and campaigns (measles, MNT, Meningitis A, yellow fever etc)
- Use active search during campaigns for other diseases to provide information
- Use the information of special group of population including refugees, displaced, nomads, security compromised areas, border population and hard to reach population so as to cover them by vaccination, surveillance, provide information about them for other programs (e.g. MCH) as well as to adopt ways to reach them and use information to mobilize the donor interest and resource allocation.

The country completed the polio assets’ mapping and shared the report with the global polio eradication initiative. Sudan notes the effort made by WHO and encourages maintaining the human resources, managerial and financial support to the program until it’s achievement.