



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

**Agenda Item No. : 16.1 & 16.2**  
**Title : Poliomyelitis: Poliomyelitis eradication  
Polio transition planning and polio post  
certification**  
**Ref. Document : EB150/21, EB 150/22**

Thank you Chair,

1. We welcome the Polio Eradication Strategy 2022-2026 and take note of the progress report. We pray that the decline of both the wild poliovirus type 1 and the circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus globally will continue and we would like to commend these countries on their continuous efforts in eradicating Polio despite facing challenges of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, polio surveillance and campaigns continued to be affected. It is utmost important to strengthen and intensify polio surveillance and close immunity gaps through public awareness in high-risk countries with the support from Partners of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), including WHO and the civil society to successfully end

polio transmission, especially with the re-opening of international borders and economic sectors.

3. As wild poliovirus type 1 cases reach historically low numbers, circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus continues to be a threat to polio eradication efforts. Achieving and sustaining optimal vaccination coverage in all areas, especially among high-risk and vulnerable populations is imperative. Partnerships with various agencies in reaching the hard-to-reach population is an effective strategy to close immunity gaps. Countries should also maintain systematically high routine immunization coverage rates at subnational levels to minimize the consequences of any new poliovirus introduction.
4. It is hoped that the experience of novel oral polio vaccine type 2 usage is reported and shared, as the information is valuable for the other Member States.
5. Malaysia also takes note of the update on the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan on Polio Transition (2018-2023) within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
6. Political commitment is of utmost importance in accelerating the implementation of country polio transition plans in the context of COVID-19, especially in ensuring the financial sustainability of transitioned functions. Lessons learned from the current mobilization of polio staff to manage or assist in COVID-19 vaccination rollout in the priority countries can facilitate these countries to revise their national plans, to incorporate practical

and achievable target capacities, and align with each country's programmatic and technical priorities.

7. Sharing of experiences and lessons learned among priority countries in implementing their national polio transition plans in the context of COVID-19 can further facilitate strengthening and revision of country plans and recognizing opportunities for countries that are transitioning out of support from the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

Thank you.