

Madam Chair,

WHO's emergency program has shown a remarkable leadership both during conflict emergency and the COVID pandemic - I would like to commend the efforts undertaken by WHO at three levels to support member states in their endeavor to save vulnerable and affected communities, and the real credit goes to the frontline workers where there is no line between national health system and WHO country team, they act as One Team managing health emergencies.

While we admire the success, we should not forget that the mission is not accomplished and with the way the global order is dis-ordered, more emergencies rooted in climate change or political ambitions are expected to come.

For member states and WHO to ensure availability of health services in humanitarian and emergency settings, we must critically review the past performance, take advantage of the lessons learned, strategically invest in strong coordination among governments and partners, advocate for sustainable funding, promote strategic planning, and invest in capacity-building on the ground.

Here, I would like to recommend the followings;

- WHO is not the only actor in humanitarian crisis both technically and financially, but it does lead the most significant part of the operations – the health cluster – to ensure required level of synergism is achieved, WHO in general and its emergency program in special should further invest in its coordination capacity and mechanisms with local governments and other stakeholders in humanitarian settings, and this could only be done through meaningful listening to the field.
- We live in a world of emerging priorities competing for limited resources. Nor the local governments neither WHO will be able to sustain achievements unless they both incorporate the sustainability element in all layers of decision making and operations, this could only be gained through effective coordination and realization of the link between humanitarian and development efforts – the disconnect between humanitarian and development efforts especially during protracted conflicts has caused the greatest level of resources wastage and lack of sustainability.
- COVID 19 should have convinced us to put the slogan of Think Globally and act locally into practice – WHO has to improve its relationship with local markets and private sector, we can only be prepared if everyone in the neighborhood are prepared, without private sector involvement, we will not succeed.
- WHO emergency program should develop its political analysis capacity to make sure it is well aware and on alert in relations to the political developments around the world and plan proactively,
- We should not, but we are repeating the mistakes made in Afghanistan 2001 by abandoning emergency preparedness in post conflict planning – in 2001 neglecting the country's past history, everybody thought the country was out of Emergency phase and investment in emergency program was stopped – with the resurgence of conflict we paid the price twice, not only in cash, but with life and blood of innocents. The same mistake is being repeated now in Afghanistan.
- On this specific case, I had urged WHO in the past and will repeat my message that if the available time window is not utilized to strengthen local preparedness and response capacity, tomorrow will be late. We all have to be optimistic, but the actors and factors affecting the weather of tomorrow are out of circle of influence, so let's have our umbrellas with us, especially while being in contexts like Afghanistan.

I thank you, Madam Chair