



**Statement from the Representative of the Republic of Mozambique at the
152th Session of WHO Executive Board**

Item 13.1: Polio Eradication

Mr. President,

Mozambique is aligned with the statement of the African Region and take this opportunity to congratulate the General Director for this comprehensive report and to express our gratitude for the technical and financial support timely provided by WHO/UNICEF and others Global Polio Eradication Initiative partners.

Last year in 2022 a serial of polio outbreaks from both wild polio virus type 1 and vaccinal polio virus type 2 were reported in Mozambique.

In response to the Polio outbreaks, Mozambique is part of the subregional, multi-country emergency outbreak response with other four neighboring countries. So far more than 9 million of children under 5 years of age were reached in six rounds of vaccination campaigns using bOPV and nOPV2 vaccines.

An OBRA team assessed Polio's ongoing response capacity in country and concluded that in general the Government of Mozambique and partners have responded quickly and appropriately to the outbreaks, particularly considering the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and other priorities;

The campaign quality has improved, with rounds 4 and 5 achieving much higher quality than earlier rounds.

However, the outbreaks are occurring because of significant immunity gaps especially in the northern provinces and these gaps are not yet closed. Children over the age of 5 years may be contributing to the ongoing transmission, as evidence shows immunity gaps in these older children.

To address these gaps the Ministry of Health and partners are working to strengthen routine immunization activities, continuous health facility and community based surveillance. However displacement of families and children, absence or destruction of health facilities primarily caused by terrorism and scarcity of health and community workers are persistent challenges.

Thank you Mr. President