

REGIONAL STATEMENTS FOR THE MEMBER STATES OF THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION

**155th session of the Executive Board
May 2024**

Agenda item : 4.1

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Title: Evaluation: Annual Report

Chair, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of Member States in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, we welcome the latest evaluation report and thank the Secretariat for its ongoing efforts to promote the accountability and learning.

We are pleased that, in addition to global assessments such as the evaluations of GPW13 and the use of WHO normative products in countries, there are now participatory, independent and transparent evaluations of WHO's contributions at country level in our Region. We call on the Secretariat to expedite consideration and implementation of recommendations from the country evaluations that were conducted last year in Djibouti, Iraq and Tunisia, and to update the Executive Board on progress.

We also strongly urge the Director-General and the Secretariat to mobilize and allocate sufficient resources to maintain the independence of this crucial oversight function, particularly in the regions. We understand that a lack of resources is hampering implementation of the eight country programme evaluations included in EMRO's evaluation workplan for 2024–2025. We would like more information about this from the Secretariat.

The recent comparative study of WHO's evaluation function provides a good opportunity to optimize it in support of the Organization's strategic goals and the health-related Sustainable Development Goals. We note with concern that, while other United Nations entities have made substantial investments in evaluation over the past 10 years, WHO is lagging behind. We endorse the priorities identified in the comparative study and call on the Director-General and the Secretariat to urgently facilitate implementation of its recommendations and report on progress at upcoming Executive Board meetings.

We believe that implementation of recommendations from evaluations should receive at least the same attention and support as the follow-up on audits.

Thank you.