

**Agenda Item 13.5 A: A73/12 and A73/13: Poliomyelitis –
Eradication and Polio Transition**



Statement by India

Thank You Chair,

I am pleased to announce that India has been maintaining a polio free status for more than 9 years now. There has however, been an intense transmission of wild Poliovirus type 1 in two of the neighboring endemic countries and outbreaks of circulating Vaccine Derived Poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV type 2) in some countries that keeps India at high risk of importation. India is continuing to conduct Nation and sub-Nationwide Pulse Polio Campaigns to maintain high population immunity, as per the recommendations of India Expert Advisory Group (IEAG) on Polio. India is also continuing to maintain good coverage of Polio Vaccines (OPV & IPV) in routine immunization as well as maintaining coverage of Polio vaccination at international borders and to international travelers visiting from 8 high risk countries (Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, Syria and Cameroon).

Laboratory containment of Polio virus activities are on track as per WHO Global Action Plan-III (GAP III) in India. The National Containment Authority (NAC) under Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) was established in August 2017 to oversee containment related activities. Three facilities have been identified as designated Polio Essential Facilities (PEFs) and certificate of participation have been issued by Global Certification Commission (GCC) during March, 2020

Chair,

National Polio Surveillance Project (NPSP), which is a WHO & Government of India collaboration, has developed an extensive network of human resources and infrastructure to support the program. India in 2014, started transitioning of public health assets and capabilities developed for Polio eradication to government programmes and other health activities and has started funding WHO initiated Polio, other VPD, Measles and Rubella Laboratory network.

Chair,

India is in the list of low priority countries for GPEI (Global Polio Eradication Initiative) support as the interest of donors has reduced in polio infrastructure in view of declining trend of polio cases worldwide. This has led to a decline in committed funding support from donors to WHO-National Polio Surveillance Project over the years which would eventually come to an end by 2021. To address this, during the phase two i.e. 2022-26, NPSP will transition to wider public health functions, while ensuring continuation of support to all immunization initiatives with complete funding support from the Government of India.

Chair,

India has always been and remains committed to achieve global polio eradication. India's approach for polio eradication sets a precedent for all the South East Asia Region countries to achieve polio free status.

Thank you!