



**73rd World Health Assembly
November 11st 2020**

**Intervention Statement of Viet Nam
on item 13.5: Poliomyelitis**

Thank you, Mr. Chair

We agree with an amendment of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative Polio Endgame Strategy 2019–2023 and the report on Poliomyelitis by the Director-General that address gaps and resource mobilization to fully implement of the Strategy Plan.

We also highly appreciate achievements of the Polio Endgame Strategic Plan 2013-2018 implemented by the World Health Organization (WHO) and country members. Being together with other countries in the world, Viet Nam Ministry of Health (MoH) is developing a national Polio Eradication Plan 2021-2025. Besides, following efforts are being made:

1. Vietnam maintains population immunity by reaching over 95% bOPV3 coverage for an annual number of 1.6 million children under 1 year of age. IPV was introduced into routine immunization for more than 2 million of children at 5 months of age since June 2018 with support from GAVI. Besides, the Ministry of Health is working with international organizations to prepare for IPV second dose introduction and a nationwide IPV SIA next year supported by GAVI. Two birth cohorts equaling 3.5 million of children born between the tOPV switch and IPV introduction will have chances to access the IPV to close the existing immunity gaps.
2. In 2019 and 2020, a bOPV SIA is being conducted in high risk districts for an approximation of 1.5 million of children aged 1-5 years. bOPV SIA will be planned next period of 2021-2025 for an active prevention of wild polio virus importation or circulation of the vaccine-derived poliovirus type 1 and 3.
3. Maintenance of an essential AFP surveillance including epidemiological and laboratory surveillance as a critical strategy: Recent EPI review in Vietnam has clearly indicated that the AFP surveillance in Vietnam is high standard and meets all required indicators. We commit to build effective poliovirus surveillance capacities through the polio endgame and beyond, and continue to participate the global polio surveillance.
4. The Ministry of Health accelerates to strengthen National Authority for containment to enroll Poliovirus Essential Facility and to submit an application for participation, while NICVB did destroy type2 materials completely in June 2020.
5. Vietnam request WHO to work with its partners to secure a supply of IPV vaccine and new non-infectious polio vaccines for Vietnam during the period 2021-2025. Sustainable immunization program in all countries with polio essential functions at all levels through and beyond the polio endgame is a core strategy of Polio-free world.

Thank you, Mr. Chair!