



77th World Health Assembly

Agenda Item 11.3, 11.4 & 11.5

Draft IPC Global Action Plan, Immunization Agenda 2030 & End TB Strategy

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS A77/4 and /2024/REC/1, decision EB154/8

Mr. Chair,

The Bahamas affirms the vital importance of infection prevention and control (IPC) in safeguarding public health, particularly given the complex challenges of the current global health environment. We stand behind the adoption of the WHO global strategy on IPC, which comprehensively addresses infection prevention and control across all healthcare settings.

We applaud the World Health Organization for its rigorous efforts in crafting the draft global action plan and monitoring framework for infection prevention and control, which are aligned with our national goals to elevate infection prevention and control standards and mitigate infectious disease transmission.

Noteworthy achievements to date include nearing completion of the National IPC guidelines, establishment of the National IPC Committee, and conducting capacity-building activities such as workshops and symposiums.

The Bahamas fully supports the inclusion of clear targets and indicators plan, as they will facilitate monitoring and evaluation of progress towards achieving IPC goals.



Nevertheless, we face persistent challenges that call for strategic focus on manpower, recruitment of specialists, securing dedicated funding, fostering NGO collaborations, and delivering extensive training for infection prevention and control personnel.

Mr. Chair,

Turning to the Immunization Agenda 2030, we recognize its progress in addressing vaccine-preventable diseases, advancing vaccine accessibility, strengthening the robust 12-point action plan and the “Big Catch -Up” initiative. However, despite the setbacks of the pandemic, improvements were noted in 2022, though they did not reach pre-pandemic levels. More attention and support are needed to enhance technical aid, financial contributions, and capacity-building measures to accelerate equitable vaccine distribution, strengthen health outcomes, and increase resilience against future health crises.

Lastly, Mr. Chair,

The Bahamas reaffirms its commitment to the WHO End TB Strategy. Despite challenges, The Bahamas has achieved notable progress in combating tuberculosis, as evidenced by a 46% reduction in TB cases since 2016 and a significant drop in TB-related deaths. Our dedication extends to providing free TB prevention, diagnostics, and treatments, ensuring equitable healthcare access.

Since the impact of COVID-19 on our TB programs, we have bolstered our efforts through telemedicine and integrated



HIV-TB services to enhance accessibility and continuity of care. However, moving forward, we must focus on the accessibility of advanced TB medicines, diagnostics, and vaccines, urging the international community to join in supporting these endeavors.

In closing, we call for continued global collaboration to end TB, driven by shared commitment and collective action. Together, we can end tuberculosis.

I thank you.