

Statement of I.R. Iran on
“Immunization Agenda 2030:
Progress towards global immunization goals and implementation of the
Immunization Agenda”

We really appreciate EB154 for organizing the valuable document of EB154/9 and the DG for the document A77/4.

Since 1984, with the establishment of the Primary Health Care (PHC) network in I.R. Iran, the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) has been integrated into this network. This achievement is commensurate with Pillar C of global impact goals of IA2030. Given the universality and wide coverage of the country's rural areas by the PHC network, the vaccination coverage of children and other target groups in Iran has been higher than the indicators of WHO. In the last decade, DTP3, MCV1 and MCV2 coverage have consistently been 95% or higher at the district level. Despite the observed drop in vaccination coverage in some countries during the Covid-19 pandemic, such a drop was prevented in I.R. Iran i.e. the coverage was maintained above 95% in all vaccine doses over 2020-21 due to the mentioned integration.

In line with the Pillar B of global impact goals of Immunization Agenda, the Iran's EPI program is offered free of charge to all target groups, regardless of gender, religion, ethnicity, or nationality. Despite the high population movement from polio-endemic countries, we have maintained the country's polio-free status since 2001. Iran has been among the three leading countries in the Eastern Mediterranean region in achieving the goal of eliminating indigenous measles and rubella viruses in 2019, approved by the regional committee of WHO until the end of 2022. However, due to large outbreaks of the disease in neighboring countries, the possibility of the disease importation is considered high.

In line the fifth priority within the action agenda offered by IA Technical Progress Report 2023 in May 2024, Pneumococcal and rotavirus vaccines have been added to the immunization program of seven provinces of the country. This will be expanded countrywide by the end of the year.

In 2023, WHO helped conduct an external evaluation to Iran's EPI. Based on its findings, as well as recommendations made in the IA2030, the formulation of a national strategic plan for immunization is underway.

Prevention and control of outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases will not be achievable without comprehensive promotion of the immunization program in all countries. To this end, strengthening and maintaining commitment of global partners of the immunization program are critical.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the vaccine production capacity in the Islamic Republic of Iran was reviewed and strengthened. With the participation of the private sector, the research and

development capacity have been fostered in the area of vaccine production. Therefore, it is possible to produce pneumococcal and rotavirus vaccines in the country now. We expect WHO and international partners visit and support this capacity, so not only the country can supply its needs but also will participate in supplying the other countries' needs.

Thank you Mr./Madam Chairperson.