

Statement of I.R. Iran on
“Poliomyelitis eradication
and
Polio transition planning and polio post-certification”

We appreciate the DG for preparing these valuable reports. During the past months, cases caused by wild poliovirus in Afghanistan and Pakistan are decreasing as well as genetic chains. The I.R. Iran has taken actions in line with the actions proposed in the Polio Eradication Strategy 2022-2026. We are committed to increasing the engagement and support of all political and social leaders to ensure the continuation and coordination of activities. The Iranian Polio eradication program has the advantage of being integrated into the PHC system and the domestic production of oral polio vaccine. Iran's vaccination coverage has always been around 99% at the national level and over 95% in all districts. This coverage has played an important role in preventing the introduction the virus in the country and spread of following the import of wild and vaccine-derived virus in the years 2019 to 2021.

One of the threatening factors is the increase of migrants and refugees' population movement into the country, which is very serious and affects many indicators. Considering such movements from polio-endemic countries, the continuation of WHO support to national polio reference lab is of utmost importance due to its workload increase.

We would like to recommend the following point to WHO:

- In terms of providing more financial resources from national and international resources, this action has a positive effect on accelerating the pace of achievement to polio eradication. It seems that some international partners with a mandate of health and well-being of immigrants, refugees and IDPs; can help in financial support. Recalling UNHCR support to Iran with appreciation is a valuable example in 2023, where we conducted polio and measles vaccination campaigns in 16 Iranian provinces hosting vulnerable populations. We call on WHO to strengthen such coordination with other

partner agencies for public health and humanitarian efforts for vulnerable populations.

Thank you Madam/Mr. chairperson