

Progress Report -Availability-Safety and quality of blood products

First of all, we would like to express our gratitude to the DG for this report and for the WHO activities regarding the measures taken in line with the implementation of resolutions WHA63(12) and WHA75(17). In line with the supportive activities performed by the “advisory group on blood regulation, availability and safety” to advance blood transfusion medicine, it is worth noting that the 5th International Congress of Transfusion Medicine took place in Tehran, Iran from May 14th through 16th, 2024, with the attendance of representatives from over 15 countries.

Regarding paragraph 51 of the progress report about optimal use of blood and blood products, Iran’s Blood Transfusion Organization, as the only collaborating center of the WHO in the EMR, conducted a training workshop in 2023 titled "Optimal use of plasma" with the participation of Blood Transfusion Directors and experts from Pakistan, Tunisia, Iraq, Palestine, Libya, Nepal, Afghanistan, Lebanon and Indonesia.

As per paragraph 52 of the report regarding increasing the supply of plasma-derived biological products, it is noted that Iran, despite its ability to collect over one million liters of plasma annually, has not been able to naturalize plasma fractionation technology within the country due to sanctions and other challenges. To address this health issue, we request WHO to send a team of experts to Iran to assess its capabilities and offer technical guidance on transferring the knowledge of plasma fractionation to the country.

We would like to acknowledge the tireless supports of the former Blood Safety Officer in WHO/EMR. However, currently a significant challenge is the absence of a staff for this critical vacancy, hindering effective communication with the regional office. We, therefore, cordially request WHO urgent action to appoint a new and capable regional focal point for this position.

Thank you.