

**Statement of I.R. Iran on
“Pandemic Influenza preparedness: Sharing of influenza viruses and access to
vaccines and other benefits (resolution WHA75.7 (2022))”**

We appreciate the PIP Framework secretariat for this progress report.

As we know the objective of the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework is to improve pandemic influenza preparedness and response capacities, and strengthen the protection against the pandemic influenza by improving 6 strategic pillars. One of those essential pillars is strengthening the WHO global influenza surveillance and response system (“WHO GISRS”).

In line with that strategic priority, the Iran’s NIC joined this initiative from the very beginning after its establishment following the pandemic influenza of H1N1 of 2009. This center was established in 1976 at School of Public Health, Tehran University of Medical Sciences.

During H1N1 2009 pandemic, NIC with the support of Iran’s Ministry of Health expanded a network of sub national laboratories throughout the country. Currently NIC collaborates with 15 subnational labs for screening of influenza viruses. Due to three pandemic influenzas in 20th and the last in 21st century, the screening of circulation of those viruses with pandemic potential such as avian influenza is of utmost importance.

To that end, Iran’s NIC report the results of the screening and surveillance data weekly on the RespiMart ¹, also it shares viruses with the WHO collaborating center in London for vaccine composition and unusual changes if there is any.

Since 2019, we have shared those viruses with WHO CC , however, in 2020 there was no circulating influenza virus to share with WHO CC. because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The integrated pandemic influenza and COVID-19 preparedness and response plan of I.R. Iran received support from WHO/ PIP framework in 2022 under the planning pillar of PIP framework and it was reflected as a global best practice. We thank you WHO for its support to that planning model. The plan included strengthening fast-track diagnostics

¹ - <https://www.who.int/tools/flunet>

(FTD) of all pathogens with pandemic potential and we hope that WHO supports us to continue its further evolution into a costed national action plan.

Thank you.