



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

77TH WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

Committee A

National Statements

Thank you Chair,

Kenya aligns this statement with that delivered by Chad on behalf of the 47 Member States of the WHO Africa Region.

On agenda 14.4- poliomyelitis

1. Kenya takes note of the progress regarding the implementation of the Polio Eradication Strategy and the strategic action plan on polio transition towards a polio free world. We have made progress by maintaining a polio-free status through environmental surveillance, as well as a robust immunization programme.
2. More recently, in 2023, we successfully interrupted an outbreak of type 2 circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus using novel oral polio vaccine (nOPV2) through mass vaccination campaigns in high-risk counties. Further, The country has met the poliovirus containment requirements of the Global Action Plan to minimize poliovirus facility-associated risk.
3. We call for the global community to close the resource gaps to progressively implement national transition plans in developing countries. In addition, we call for sufficient resources to close the gaps in surveillance, enhance cross border interventions and reach all zero-dose children among vulnerable populations.
4. Kenya also calls for prioritization of novel oral polio vaccine stockpiles in the high risk countries

Agenda 14.5- Smallpox eradication

1. The smallpox outbreak of 2022 in several member states prompted Kenya to upscale surveillance and laboratory systems. Although no local cases were confirmed, Kenya continues to enhance disease detection capabilities with modern PCR-based screening and mobile laboratories for outbreak response.
2. We have in place a national genomic surveillance strategy that includes variola strain profiling. Kenya seeks to enhance laboratory capacity to BSL 3 and 4, build staff capacity, secure funding, and improve isolation facilities to prepare for variola-like diseases.
3. Kenya therefore takes note of the report and requests the sharing of any research findings conducted on variola virus, as well as enhanced biosafety and biosecurity of the current stockpiles.

I thank you.