



Poliomyelitis Eradication, Transition Planning and Post Certification: Ensuring a Polio-Free Future

Thursday 30 May

Honorable Chair, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests,

I have the honor to present the State of Kuwait's national statement under agenda item 14.4

The State of Kuwait thanks the Director-General for his report.

The State of Kuwait remains steadfast in the fight against polio, having been free of indigenous cases since 1983. With unwavering commitment, Kuwait has fully embraced the WHO's strategies for poliomyelitis eradication, highlighted by its robust measures. Since 1994, consistent and rigorous Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) surveillance at both national and subnational levels has surpassed global standards. Kuwait reports a non-polio AFP rate meeting the target per 100,000 children under 15 years of age and a stool adequacy rate exceeding 80%. As a pioneer in the Eastern Mediterranean



Region, Kuwait introduced supplementary surveillance activities, including environmental surveillance in 2019 and Primary Immune Deficiency (PID) surveillance for immunodeficiency-associated vaccine-derived poliovirus in 2022.

The country's Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) system has achieved a national IPV and OPV3 coverage exceeding 95%, with no region falling below 90%. The Kuwait National Laboratory has been certified by the WHO for successfully isolating poliovirus as part of WHO's global testing process and scored full marks in WHO's testing for poliovirus isolation. Backed by a WHO-accredited regional reference laboratory, Kuwait ensures optimal support for the AFP surveillance system. The Public Health Virology Laboratory diligently handles testing of stool samples from patients and contacts, scoring full marks in WHO's testing for poliovirus isolation.

Kuwait aims to enhance surveillance and expand immunization outreach in the short term, while



solidifying polio eradication achievements for long-term health system improvement. The national strategy involves regular risk assessments of core surveillance and immunization indicators ensure high public health standards.

Kuwait advocates international cooperation and innovation for polio eradication, contributing to global efforts and safeguarding public health worldwide. Kuwait has since provided significant contribution towards in immunization, including financial support and participation in global health initiatives, demonstrating our dedication to polio eradication and health system strengthening and commitment to a polio-free world and enhanced global health security.

Thank you, Chair.