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Statement

Committee A

Agenda Item 13.1 Follow-up to the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, Global strategy to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem and its associated goals and targets for the period 2020–2030

Thank you Madame Chair,

Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer in women globally and the second most common cancer in women in Armenia. Armenia recognizes the importance of global efforts to combat cervical cancer and echoes the international recommendations through the implementation of comprehensive prevention strategies in alignment with the World Health Organization's call to eliminate cervical cancer.

To curb the disturbing prevalence and mortality of cervical cancer, a national screening program and HPV vaccinations have been implemented since 2015 and 2017, respectively.

The HPV vaccination in its initial years faced resistance due to widespread myths and misinformation, resulting in a plateau of national coverage at just 13%. Through persistent awareness-raising activities and targeted interventions, vaccination rates in Armenia have documented a notable improvement, with coverage increasing to 32.9% by the end of 2024, representing a two-fold increase in just two years. Additionally, in 2025, with the alignment of the two-dose strategy to the one-dose strategy as advised by the WHO position paper, Armenia will embark on the next step of the scale-up of HPV vaccine uptake.

Armenia acknowledges that the path to achieving global cervical cancer elimination targets is a challenging one. Nevertheless, the increasing trend in vaccination uptake demonstrates the effectiveness of focused efforts in overcoming skepticism and building trust in the HPV vaccine.

Yet support is needed to reach the WHO-recommended 90% vaccination coverage and to continue advancing efforts toward the elimination of cervical cancer.

Armenia remains committed to strengthening these initiatives and ensuring that all women have access to life-saving prevention methods.

Thank you