



23 May 2025

WHA 78 session

Statement

Committee A

Agenda Item 13.4 Communicable diseases

Thank you Madame Chair,

Communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, viral hepatitis, and sexually transmitted infections, disproportionately impact low-income countries and marginalized populations and are a leading contributor to the death toll, as people living there have higher odds of dying from communicable than non-communicable diseases. Communicable diseases are still a significant threat to public health and security, within our region and in Armenia. However, the COVID-19 pandemic illustrated how powerful communicable diseases are and yet how vulnerable the strong healthcare systems can be in the situation of an emergency.

In Armenia, the Ministry of Health has set priorities for communicable disease surveillance and continues prioritizing the strategic efforts to prevent, control, and eliminate communicable diseases also through expanding and enhancing the diagnostic capacity, and ensuring coordinated actions. Armenia has been working toward the institutionalization of the “One Health” approach by adopting the definition and implementing it in surveillance. Additionally, Armenia has a long-standing history of a national immunization program and has managed to reach and sustain high immunization coverage for vaccine-preventable diseases through effective vaccine management and maintaining equitable access to vaccinations.

We have also made tangible progress in tuberculosis control, provision of community-based HIV prevention and treatment services, and have been recently investing in intensifying the STIs prevention and hepatitis response. Some of the major achievements include a steady decline in the incidence of TB, elimination and maintenance of the status of mother-to-child HIV transmission, Hepatitis B control through state-funded treatment, and comprehensive immunization against Hepatitis B launched as early as 1995. However, challenges such as prevailing multi-drug-resistant TB forms, the need for intensified HIV case detection, linkage to care, and adherence might undermine the achievements, especially in the landscape of declining health aid.

Armenia reaffirms its commitment and support to local and global action on communicable disease control, and we stand committed to working with WHO and fellow Member States to advance the goal of the elimination of communicable diseases and leaving no one behind in this fight.

Thank you