

Agenda item 12
(resolution WHA73.2 (2020))

Statement of I.R. Iran on:
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

The Islamic Republic of Iran expresses its gratitude to WHO, for presenting the valuable document on the Global Strategy to Accelerate the Elimination of Cervical Cancer as a Public Health Problem. This document provides a scientific, step-by-step, evidence-based roadmap to achieve the 90-70-90 targets by 2030. Developments such as strengthening screening, expanding access to treatment of precancerous lesions, and palliative care are all acknowledged and supported. However, to further enhance vaccine effectiveness, the strategy should be revisited in light of new data, implementation challenges, equity, and regional health needs. Some studies show that HPV vaccination adherence is less than 50% in some developed countries, which could put a question mark on the cost-effectiveness of HPV vaccination. Decisions need to be made based on national data and rigorous scientific research, and on costs in high-risk groups. Strengthening of registry systems and preventive measures of cervical cancer by studying high-risk women (such as: vaccination-early diagnosis-medical treatment), needs to be prioritized in the global program especially in underserved areas, which will reduce inequalities in access to services. Strengthening applied research can help improve knowledge gaps and create appropriate policies. Also, increasing awareness and promoting health literacy through community-based programs, engaging religious leaders, providing cultural and scientific explanations for the necessity of preventive measures, comprehensive education for families is, inter alia, the other components of success in this strategy.

The Islamic Republic of Iran declares its readiness to actively participate in creating necessary scientific evidences, then participating in revision of the strategy in order to achieve equity in cervical cancer elimination.

Thank you for the floor, Madam/Mr Chair

**Center for NonCommunicable Diseases Control,
Deputy for Public Health
Ministry of Health & Medical Education
The Islamic Republic of Iran**