

**Statement of I.R. Iran on:
"Poliomyelitis"**

Mr./Mrs. Chairman

We are grateful to the Director-General for highlighting this subject in his annual report. It has well addressed the progress made as well as the obstacles facing the achievement of polio eradication. It seems that WHO's strategies for the eradication goal have not been completely successful.

Iran is committed to increasing interaction and gaining the support of all political and social leaders to ensure the continuation of coordinated activities. It has taken actions in line with the proposals of the Polio Eradication Strategy 2022-2026.

The national program has some advantages such as being integrated into the PHC system, domestic production of OPV, and free immunization of all children regardless of nationality, race, gender and residential status.

Despite vaccination coverage of about 99% nationally and more than 95% in all districts, Iran has conducted door-to-door polio vaccination operations in two rounds for 1,200,000 vulnerable children under 5 years of age since 1994, relying on the asylum seeker population, due to its extensive borders and large population movements from polio-endemic countries.

These measures have played a significant role in maintaining the polio-free status since 2004 and have also acted as a protective factor against the spread of the polio virus to more distant countries. International support for the activities of Iran will help us fulfill this important global responsibility. We would like to raise the following recommendations to WHO:

- ☐ We declare our readiness to cooperate with the IAG.
- ☐ We recommend WHO, in coordination with other international and humanitarian organizations, to strengthen the social determinants of health in line with developmental goals in vulnerable countries.
- ☐ It is emphasized that polio eradication activities should be carried out in an integrated manner with other health services, as well as humanitarian efforts (in accordance with the document A78/33).
- ☐ It is proposed that a global campaign titled "The Last Child Vaccinated" be held, and hosted by Iran.
- ☐ Strengthening strategic vaccine stockpiles is proposed in order to be prepared to deal with emergency situations of vaccine shortages.

Thank you Madam/Mr. Chairperson.

**Center for Communicable Diseases Control,
Deputy for Public Health
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