

Agenda item 24.2

WHA 78/4 and EB156/2025/REC/1, decision EB156(36)

**Statement of I.R. Iran on:
Global action plan on the public health response to
dementia 2017–2025**

We express our gratitude to WHO for preparing this valuable document.

The population of the Islamic Republic of Iran has experienced an increasing trend in the middle-aged and elderly age groups in recent decades. Since every person with dementia needs to receive diagnostic, therapeutic, rehabilitation, and care services, considering the disease incidence, the country considers itself committed to planning, formulating, and implementing appropriate policies and, in line with the international community, has taken steps to formulate a national dementia program in 2021.

The program has been developed within the framework of upstream documents such as Article 29¹ of the Constitution, the general policies of the health system, the 2025 Vision Document, and the Sixth Development Plan.

¹ Article 29 of the Constitution: Enjoyment of social security in terms of retirement, unemployment, old age, disability, carelessness, being stranded, accidents and incidents, and the need for health and medical services and medical care in the form of insurance, etc. is a universal right. The government is obliged to provide the above services and financial support to the people of the country in accordance with the laws from public revenues and revenues from public participation.

The Vision Document of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Horizon of 2025: Iranian society in the horizon of this vision will have the following characteristics: developed, appropriate to its cultural, geographical and historical requirements, relying on moral principles and Islamic, national and revolutionary values, with an emphasis on religious democracy, social justice, legitimate freedoms, preserving human dignity and rights, and benefiting from social and judicial security, enjoying health, prosperity, and food security. Social security, equal opportunities, appropriate income distribution, a strong family institution, free from poverty, discrimination and benefiting from a favorable environment. Inspiring, active and effective in the Islamic world by consolidating the model of religious democracy, efficient development, an ethical society, innovative thinking and intellectual and social dynamism, influential on Islamic and regional convergence based on Islamic teachings.

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A variety of strategic actions are included in the national program including:

- Promoting community health literacy about dementia
- Strengthening leadership and management
- Designing integrated comprehensive services
- Invigorating community-based programs, using a primary health care approach
- Developing a home care system
- Providing ongoing education to affected individuals, families, and caregivers
- Emphasizing on the psychological and cognitive empowerment of affected individuals
- Advocating the participation of public institutions
- Cooperating with inter-sectoral and executive agencies
- And utilizing the capacity of the media.

Since factors such as unbalanced nutrition, tobacco and alcohol consumption, diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity, anxiety, and depression are considered as risk factors for cognitive disorders, screening for those factors is performed in the primary health care (PHC) system for community members, including the middle-aged and elderly.

In the PHC system, about 100 community-based mental health and social service centers have been established. We hope that with the presence of psychiatrists and mental health experts in those community-level centers, better diagnostic and therapeutic services can be provided to clients.

We request WHO Director General to pay special attention to the following points:

1. The reference to an elderly-friendly environment in the document is good, but it is better to focus on maintaining an empowered healthy family.
2. By launching a data recording platform, outcome indicators should be considered for monitoring and evaluating interventions.
3. Considering a training program to increase awareness among caregivers of people with dementia
4. Financial support for implementing the program and providing a sufficient number of mental health experts

General population policies announced by the Supreme Leader, paragraph 7 of the general population policies, refers to building a culture of respect and honor for the elderly, creating the necessary conditions to ensure their health and maintenance in the family, and anticipating the necessary mechanism to benefit from the capabilities of the elderly in appropriate areas.

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