

Statement of I.R. Iran on:

WHO global plan of action to strengthen the role of the health system within a national multisectoral response to address interpersonal violence, in particular against women and girls, and against children (resolution WHA69.5 (2016)) and Ending violence against children through health systems strengthening and multisectoral approaches (resolution WHA74.17 (2021))

We express profound gratitude for the efforts made and progress report presented by the WHO DG.

The issue of violence against women, girls, and children is of paramount importance and has rightly been prioritized for action. Such violence not only impacts the mental and social well-being of the victims but also, considering the pivotal role of women and girls in the fabric of societies and families, as well as children as the future generation, affects the broader mental and social health of communities. The measures taken are highly valuable and evidence-based, and their effectiveness could be significantly enhanced if tailored to the cultural contexts of different countries.

In Iran, the two key objectives—reducing prevalence and increasing access to services—are being pursued through various programs. Psychologists within the health network conduct public and regular training sessions for the general population to strengthen parenting skills, life skills, and improve marital relationships within families. Additionally, the Seraj program, based on a community-oriented mental health model, has recently been integrated into the national PHC structure after a decade of pilot implementation. One of its primary goals is to provide comprehensive services to victims of violence. Within Seraj framework, social workers, supported by family physicians, psychologists, and psychiatrists, offer assistance to victims by leveraging existing laws and structures. Furthermore, the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is actively pursuing the enactment of additional supportive legislation to address this critical issue.

In conclusion, we remain committed to collaborating with international partners to share experiences and adopt best practices, ensuring a safer and healthier environment for all, particularly the most vulnerable populations.

Thank you for your attention.