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## 13.1 Poliomyelitis Eradication

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Mr. Dr Kerstin VVesna Petric Cahir of the executive board

Honorable EB members

Ladies and gentlemen

We have viewed with interest and appreciation the Director-General's report on poliomyelitis eradication and the details it contains on the global polio situation and the relentless efforts of the WHO to eradicate poliomyelitis globally. In this regard, we would like to emphasize that the Sultanate of Oman has taken pioneering steps in polio eradication as one of the vaccine preventable diseases. As a result, the last case of polio was recorded in the Sultanate of Oman in 1993.

The success of the polio eradication program in the Sultanate can be attributed to several factors, including:

- The availability of several national strategies that have been implemented to eradicate polio.

- The continues follow-up of the epidemiological investigation of polio in order to maintain the international indicators and standards.

- The implementation of simulation program for polio outbreak under expert management.

- The maintenance of high coverage rates of more than 95% with routine vaccinations against polio.

- Having Central Public Health Laboratories that is announced by the WHO as a cooperating center in the field of emerging and novel infectious diseases.

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- The presence of a national polio eradication committee that monitor all the polio eradication related activities.

Having said that, we would like to stress that above efforts to be maintained and further efforts to be implemented in order to move forward including the environmental surveillance keep in mind the ongoing potential risk of importing cases from Yemen based on the polio outbreak situation there and disruption in delivery of essential immunization services.

Thanks Mr./Mrs. Chair