

**Statement of I.R. Iran on  
“Progress report on Polio eradication and transition”**

**Mr./Madam Chairperson,  
Excellences, ladies and gentlemen**

We appreciate Regional Director for organizing this valuable document, which correctly highlights the important areas in polio eradication, financing and regional the commitment for its eradication.

During the past months, cases due to wild Poliovirus have diminished in Afghanistan and Pakistan and polio eradication has never been more achievable than now.

One of the serious threatening factors against the program, is cross-border movement of large populations in a disorganized way from a country to another one, so many program indicators would be affected. One of the overwhelmed capacities by populations' movement, is laboratory surveillance, while it is critical in early detection and rapid response to polio virus importation. Accordingly, strengthening National Polio Lab equipment and empowerment of personnel is of utmost importance for the country and region

- Iran has hosted two “Group 5” events in the past year, bringing together Afghanistan, Iraq, and Pakistan, in collaboration with WHO/EMRO. This kind of collaboration mechanisms is important for disease containment purposes, such as polio eradication.

We would like to raise some recommendations to WHO:

- 1) To accelerate nOPV2 qualification to minimize the risk of VDPV2 resurgence.
- 2) To strengthen coordination with other UN organizations and partners for public health and humanitarian assistance to FCV countries.
- 3) Vaccine refusal is a major threat for public health. We request WHO to develop a comprehensive RCCE plan to confront this risk. In this regard, IAG could guide and assist WHO in informing and engaging Muslim member states
- 4) To advocate the developed, high-income countries like G7 and G20 to pledge more for filling financial gaps in the global polio eradication program
- 5) To shorten the process of approval and shipment of nOPV2 to affected countries in order to facilitate rapid response to any unprecedented event/outbreak.
- 6) I.R. Iran welcomes the suggestion of Iraq regarding organizing and hosting technical meetings with relevant countries to adopt a roadmap with SOPs to guide countries for preparation and management of mass gathering events where there are visitors from polio-affected countries. We suggest this meeting to be held with WHO support in one of G5 countries with participation of representatives of those countries and also the subcommittee members.

**Madam/Mr. chair, thank you for the floor.**

**Deputy for Public Health**  
**Ministry of Health & Medical Education**  
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