

Rotary Statement on Polio Eradication
WHO/EMRO Regional Committee Meeting

Honorable Ministers, Regional Director Dr. Al-Mandhari, GPEI Partners, Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of Rotary members in Egypt and the Eastern Mediterranean Region more broadly, I would like to thank the conveners of this meeting for shining a spotlight on efforts to eradicate all types of polio in the Region. As a core member of the GPEI, Rotary has invested over US\$900 million in the region and Us\$2.6 billion globally to help protect children wherever they live from life-long paralysis or even death from the poliovirus. We especially would like to recognize the leadership of Dr. Al-Mandhari and the Regional Subcommittee on Polio Eradication and Outbreaks for their work in advocating for a polio-free Eastern Mediterranean Region. As we have heard today, the two remaining polio endemic countries Afghanistan and Pakistan are in this region and every effort must be made to support their efforts to ensure that they, too, can join the ranks of the other countries in the region that have been declared wild poliovirus-free. Rotary stands with you and is committed to staying the course until the world is declared polio-free. Thank you.