

Summary report on the

Consultation with Islamic scholars on polio eradication

Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan
5–6 June 2013



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Acronyms

DC	Deputy Commissioner
DCO	District Coordination Officer
DPEC	District Polio Eradication Committee
FATA	Federally Administered Tribal Areas
IAG	International Islamic Advisory group
IIUI	International Islamic University, Islamabad
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
NCC	National Certification committee
NEAP	National Emergency Action Plan
NIAG	National Islamic Advisory group
PA	Political Agent
PSTF	Provincial Scholars Task Force
Quetta Block	Three districts in Balochistan (Quetta, Killa Abdullah & Pishin)
UPEC	Union Council Polio Eradication Committee
VVM	Vaccine Vial Monitor

1. Introduction

Pakistan is one of only three remaining persistent polio endemic countries in the world. The country's polio programme started in 1994, initially focusing on a fixed site strategy. Due to the importance of cross-border transmission with Afghanistan, the strategy was later replaced with a mobile strategy, in which vaccinators go door-to-door to vaccinate every child in national campaigns. The vaccination programme led to a dramatic reduction in the number of children paralyzed from polio, which fell from an estimated 25,000 cases in the late 1980s to just 28 in 2005. However, Pakistan did not succeed in interrupting transmission of poliovirus, and the number of new cases increased again in subsequent years, reaching 198 in 2011. The reversal of previous gains led the government and its partners to a significantly increased focus on polio. A National Emergency Action Plan (NEAP) was approved in 2011 and later augmented for 2012 and 2013. The NEAPs introduced a programmatic approach with enhanced oversight at national, provincial and district level. The structured approach to campaign operations and strengthened accountability caused a significant reduction in the number of children paralyzed by polio, as 2012 saw only 58 new cases (71% reduction). Significantly, the circulation of persistent polio was confined to three reservoirs and vaccination campaigns could therefore be intensified in high risk areas and populations. Despite these gains, the programme is now experiencing an increase in parental refusals, in some cases on religious grounds or with reference to religious guidance, and severe challenges relating to inaccessibility of some key areas of the country.

A consultation meeting involving Muslim scholars and intellectuals from different countries was held in Cairo, Egypt on 6–7 March, 2013. The objective of the consultation meeting was for Islamic religious and technical leaders to brainstorm about the best strategies to demonstrate solidarity across the Islamic world to ensure the protection of Muslim children against polio. The Cairo consultation meeting resulted in a number of conclusions and recommendations, including that consultation meetings are to be held in each of the Muslim countries that still have endemic polio. In follow-up to this recommendation, Pakistan was the first country to hold a National Islamic Consultation on Immunization on 5-6 June 2013. The theme of the meetings was 'Polio Eradication in the Light of Islam', and it was hosted by the International Islamic University in Islamabad in collaboration with the Al-Azhar University, Egypt. The Islamabad meeting was the first in a planned series of national consultation meetings in the polio endemic countries, intended to give religious scholars at the national level the opportunity to brainstorm on strategies for a polio-free Islamic world by the end of 2014.

It was attended by international and national Muslim scholars and health experts. It was preceded by a press conference in which the objectives and expected outcomes of the consultation were shared with the media. Following the consultation meeting, a second press conference was conducted to present conclusions, recommendations and the declaration.

This summary report first outlines the main objectives of the consultation meeting, second it outlines meeting procedures, third it summarises meeting deliberations, fourth it presents the main outcomes from the meeting, i.e. its conclusions, recommendations, declaration and plans for continued engagement of religious scholars in polio eradication, and fifth it presents a short analysis of media coverage of the event.

2. Objectives of the consultation

The purpose of the meeting was to bring together the leading national and international Muslim religious leaders and scientists, health experts, and doctors to assess the current specific challenges faced by the polio eradication programme in Pakistan. Specifically, the objectives of the consultation meeting were:

- To inform the Muslim scholars about the challenges to polio eradication in Pakistan, particularly with respect to misinformation in the name of religion that has resulted in concerns and fears in certain communities about the polio eradication program and the polio vaccine;
- To seek guidance on strategies that can effectively overcome current social and political challenges to polio eradication in Pakistan;
- To seek advice on how best to strengthen the involvement and support of religious scholars and leaders in Pakistan for polio eradication;
- To obtain consensus among the scholars on establishment of a national working committee that will develop ongoing interaction with key religious groups, institutions and specific audiences in Pakistan on the social and religious aspects of polio eradication.

3. Procedure

Following the regional consultation meeting in Cairo, Egypt on 6–7 March, the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) started consultations with Al-Azhar Alsharif, with technical support of WHO, with a view to conduct a national consultation meeting in Pakistan in June. The Vice President of the IIUI subsequently attended the meeting of the International Muslim Scholar Task Force (which had been established following the Cairo meeting) on 20 April 2013. Based on a thorough review of the current situation, religious scholars from across the country were invited to the consultation meeting in Islamabad. Participants were selected and invited for the event based on their relative influence in the polio reservoir areas, neutrality on the issue of polio vaccination, and existing commitment to the polio eradication programme. International religious scholars were selected and invited with the help of Al-Azhar Alsharif. In addition to national and international religious leaders, renowned scientists, doctors and public health experts from Pakistan were also invited to participate. Following the creation of a full list of participants, a 'core group' of religious scholars were identified to facilitate discussions, and this group received thorough briefing on current challenges and opportunities in polio eradication prior to the meeting. A meeting agenda was developed in close consultation with the core group and tailored to focus on polio reservoir areas, the influence that religious scholars and leaders have in the community, and the specification of solutions and consensus.

An opening Press conference was used to share information on the objectives and expected outcomes of the consultation with the media. After the concluding session of the consultation meeting, and the signature of the declaration by the participants, a second press conference was conducted to present outcomes and next steps.

4. Summary of discussions

The meeting features in-depth discussion on specific issues (*the full agenda is available in an annex to this report*). The participants received an epidemiological update on the global and national

situation, which concluded that the polio reservoirs in Central Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Federal Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), Gaddap Town of Karachi and the Quetta Block of Balochistan (Quetta, Killa Abdullah & Pishin) constitute a major risk for the children of Pakistan. In some cases, the situation is aggravated by parental refusals and community reluctance to accept the vaccine, sometimes on religious grounds. Meeting participants noted that due to Pakistan's status as a polio endemic country from where the virus can spread to other countries, there is now a serious risk of other countries imposing international travel restrictions on Pakistanis. Such restrictions could potentially have severe impact on movement, including that for Umrah and Hajj.

In a separate discussion, meeting participants discussed the efficacy and safety of the Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV). They concluded that Pakistan has the medical and heexpertise to ensure that the OPV used in Pakistan is the same as that used in other countries and that it is used in accordance with globally approved standards. Considering health and religious information and arguments, the meeting also concluded that the vaccine vial carries all the required technical information (including contents, required cold chain storage, temperature monitoring at all levels including Vaccine Vial Monitor (VVM) & manufacturer/expiry date and manufacturer's name etc.). Of particular importance was the consensus that OPV does not contain Any "haram" content. It was also concluded that the vaccine does not contain any content that causes infertility, early adulthood or any other health disorder.

The meeting subsequently discussed the perception of the polio eradication initiative within communities across Pakistan, and addressed issues relating to misconceptions, restriction of access and parental refusals. Participants found clear indications that false, negative and misleading material in some scientifically non-reliable publications is aggravating community misconceptions about the polio programme, particularly in polio reservoirs. It was concluded that the Ulama can play a key role in abridging the gap that exists in polio reservoirs between the community and polio eradication initiative.

Confirming the outcome of the Cairo conference, the meeting participants reached consensus that the religion prohibits Muslims from doing harm to others or themselves, and that Islam places an obligation on Muslims to prevent disease and harm. In particular, parents must protect their children from disease by vaccinating them. Health was affirmed as a key Islamic value and seeking the prevention of disease is obligatory for all Muslims. There was consensus therefore, that preventing immunization is against the teachings of Islam, and the vaccination of children is a religious responsibility. However, the responsibility to ensure the eradication of polio is shared by parents and society, especially religious influencers and community leaders. The scholars expressed the expectation that Muslim countries and institutions throughout the Islamic world enhance their support to eradicate polio from.

Meeting participants also discussed recent attacks on polio workers. The meeting reached consensus that such attacks are against the teachings of Islam and are highly condemnable. The Muslim scholars of Pakistan also expressed solidarity with the families of all those deceased and injured in such attacks.

On a separate agenda item, the meeting strongly condemned the misleading information linking the Shakeel Afridi incident in Abbottabad in May 2011 to polio eradication. Dr Shakeel Afridi was never involved in polio eradication activities. However, the participants found that the actions taken by him have raised serious doubts and suspicions about public health programmes among the public. The

participants stated very strongly that health interventions and prevention programmes should only be used for public health purposes, to avoid a loss of public trust and confidence. Participants also concluded that Shakeel Afridi case was never related the polio eradication initiative and any of its partners, including WHO and UNICEF.

In its concluding phase, the meeting made several recommendations to the polio programme in Pakistan. Of particular importance was the recommendation to form a National Islamic Advisory Group (NIAG) as well as Reservoir Specific Provincial Scholars' Taskforces (PSTFs). If implemented, these new bodies will take responsibility for developing clear and specific District and Union Council action plans for overcoming misconceptions relating to the religion, and improving vaccination teams' access to children. The terms of reference and membership of these new bodies will be finalized in the weeks following the meeting. Soon after, PSTFs will start to elaborate action plans for implementation. It was further recommended that religious leaders should mobilize local *A'imma* (*Imams*) to be active at the District & Union Council level through engagement in District and Union Council Polio Eradication Committees (DPECs and UPECs) in reservoir areas. The consultation meeting recommended that professional technical experts are included in the membership of the NIAG and PSTFs, alongside religious scholars. Existing technical immunization and polio groups/bodies (NITAG, NCC, NEG) could invite representative from NIAG to their regular meetings as required, and these existing bodies could also be consulted on technical matters by the NIAG. Polio implementation partners (WHO and UNICEF) were encouraged to continue their support for the secretariat function for Muslim scholars at the national level, as well as for the PSTFs.

It was further recommended that local Imams are encouraged to address the misconceptions of parents relating to polio vaccination in Friday sermons, and that local religious leaders should participate in District & Union Council Polio Eradication Committees (DPECs & UPECs) to enable effective planning in the polio reservoirs. Information required to counter religiously-founded misconceptions should be coordinated through the NIAG and PSTFs and widely disseminated to religious leaders through multiple channels, involving religious institutions and relevant media outlets.

5. Conclusions

Based on extensive deliberations the religious scholars taking part in the Islamabad consultation meeting reached the following conclusions:

- The polio reservoirs in Central Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, FATA, Gaddap Town of Karachi and the Quetta Block constitute a major risk for the children of Pakistan
- National Muslim scholar must play their role to ensure that Pakistan is polio free by end 2014
- Muslim scholars (Ulama) can play a key role in abridging the gap that exists in polio reservoirs between the community and polio eradication initiative
- All Muslim parents owe to their children as religious responsibility, ensuring vaccination against debilitating disease of polio
- Pakistan medical and health expertise has approved the quality, safety and use of the OPV
- Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV):

- The vaccine vial has all the required technical information (including contents, required temperature through the Vaccine Vial Monitors & manufacturer/expiry date and manufacturer's name etc.)
- is safe & does not contain Any "haram" content
- does not contain any content that causes infertility, early adulthood or any health disorder
- Shakeel Afridi and his activities in Abbottabad had no association with Polio Eradication Initiative and any of its partners, including WHO and UNICEF
- Health related initiatives should be exclusive used for health related activities alone
- Muslim counties and institutions are expected to enhance their support to eradicate polio from the Muslim Ummah and the whole world
- Pakistan is at serious risk of facing international travel restrictions including that for Umrah and Hajj
- False negative material in some non-reliable publications wrongly in the name of Islam are aggravating the misconceptions in polio reservoirs
- Killing of the polio workers is absolutely against the teachings of Islam and is highly condemnable
- The Muslim scholars of Pakistan express solidarity with the families of all the deceased and injured health interventions and prevention programmes should only be used for public health purposes, to avoid a loss of public trust and confidence.

6. Recommendations

- Formation of the National Islamic Advisory Group (NIAG) to be finalized
 - Clear terms of reference to support immunization including polio eradication
 - Clear NIAG membership criteria with representation from all polio reservoirs
 - A task force led by the International Islamic University to meet by 25th June and finalize the membership, structure, and functioning mechanisms
- Relevant members of the National Advisory group to form Reservoir Specific Provincial Scholars' Taskforces (PSTF); not more than 3-4 members each, by 10 July
 - PSTF should come up with 6 months activity plan with clear timelines and responsibilities not later than 30 July 2013
 - PSTF will meet monthly to review the situation and identify areas for intervention
- Local "A'aimma (Imams)" to be taken fully onboard at the District & UC levels through members of the NIAG and PSTF (in coordination with the DC/DCO/PA) in Polio Reservoirs:
 - To address the misconception of parents through opportunities like Friday sermons
- Local Religious leaders should participate in the meetings of UC Polio Eradication Committees (UPEC) to ensure effective planning and tailoring appropriate strategies to reach children in the polio reservoirs
- Necessary information to address misconceptions:
 - should be coordinated through NIAG and PSTF

- and disseminated widely to all religious leaders using effective dissemination mechanisms involving religious institutions and relevant media
- NIAG and PSTF better include professional technical expertise needed for their deliberations and advice
- The existing technical immunization and polio groups/bodies (NIAG, NCC):
 - Should invite representative from NIAG to their regular meetings
 - May be consulted by NIAG as and when necessary
- Polio Partners (WHO and UNICEF) should continue their secretariat role for the national Muslim scholars as well as for the PSTF.

7. Media coverage

Despite the fact that the media was heavily preoccupied with the election and oath-taking ceremony of the Prime Minister of Pakistan on the 5th and 6th of June, a contingency media management strategy was successfully implemented. Two press conferences were successfully held to generate and sustain media attention for the consultation meeting.

In a pre-meeting press briefing, presided over by Dr Ahmad Yousif A. Al-Draiweesh the President of the International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI), the objectives and expected outcomes of the consultation were shared with the media. Following the consultation meeting, a second press conference was conducted to present conclusions, recommendations and the final declaration. Around 16 reporters and six TV channels attended the first press conference, whereas a large number of journalists and 15 TV crews came to the Islamic University for the final press conference. It is also worth mentioning that seven DSNGs and Live Satellite vans of the main TV channels in Pakistan broadcasted live from the event.

Newspaper reports following the initial press briefing (published 6th of June) outlined the issues for discussion in the consultation meeting, specifically the ban on immunization in the tribal regions (potential for talks with Taliban), misinformation about OPV with religious underpinnings, the killing of innocent health workers, drone attacks and their impact on the polio programme, the Shakeel Afridi affair and travel restrictions potential imposed by Saudi Arabia for Hajj and Umrah. One important correspondent from the country's largest English daily (The News) raised the question if the consultation meeting could have a real and sustained positive impact on polio eradication efforts in Pakistan, or whether it would end up as inconsequential 'lip service to the cause'. The scholars who conducted the press conference were quoted for declaring immunization a religious responsibility and for calling the refusal of polio drops 'a sin'. The same angle of reporting was also highlighted largest local language newspaper in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Daily Mashriq).

Press reports from the extremely well attended end-of-meeting press conference on the second day (reported on 7 June 2013) focused on the same issues, but employing much stronger language. It was thus reported that "Ulema want end to drone attacks, exemplary punishment for Dr. Shakil Afridi" and that the consultation meeting had declared those who attack polio workers to be "infidels" and "against Islam". Various articles draw the conclusion that there is a direct link between the actions of Shakeel Afridi, leading to the assassination of OBL, and the later imposed ban on vaccination in North and South Waziristan. It

was widely reported that the scholars who participated in the meeting saw it as the Government's responsibility to restore peace in the relevant areas, which would be the first prerequisite for getting the ban lifted.

It can be concluded that the media coverage was generally supportive of the meeting-taking place and of the Ulema playing a more active and proactive role in polio eradication. The content of the declaration was reported extensively. In particular, it was reported that religious scholars and leaders will now be taking a more proactive role in addressing misconceptions about the vaccine and the programme, and in raising awareness and disseminating information. The continuing involvement of religious leaders and scholars at district and Union Council level, and through the national Advisory Board for Polio Eradication was highlighted in several reports. Some articles also reported that Islamic scholars had clearly stated that polio vaccine is halal, although this was the focus of only a few articles (Urdu language publications).

ANNEX 1 ISLAMABAD DECLARATION

Reiterating the Determination of a Healthy Future for the Children of Muslim Ummah

05-06 June 2013 Islamabad, Pakistan

We, the participants of the meeting held in Islamabad with collaboration of International Islamic University, Islamabad and Al-Azhar University Egypt:

Considering; a) the Resolution of the Organization for Islamic Conference during the third meeting of Health Ministers held in October 2011, that called for enhanced top level cooperation for polio eradication; and b) the resolution passed by the World Health Assembly in May 2012 declaring complete eradication of polio a global public health emergency:

1. We express utmost concern over the persistence of poliovirus in some parts of Pakistan (reservoirs), sub-optimal quality of the polio campaigns in these areas and certain political, cultural, social and security related obstacles in this regard.
2. We strongly condemn the activity of Dr. Shakeel Afridi in Abbottabad that has caused doubts and suspicions among the public about the public health activities. We strongly recommend that public health activities must always be used for public health purposes only.
3. We strongly condemn the attacks on polio workers and their killings. These are acts of extreme brutality and cowardice. These attacks and killings are against the teachings of Islam and are not acceptable at any cost. We declare these attacks as inhuman and non-Islamic acts. We demand the Government to acknowledge the services of the martyrs and support the suffering families. We also condemn the martyrdom (killing) of innocent people and children during the drone attacks.
4. We believe that it is the basic responsibility of the Government to ensure peace on permanent basis in the bordering areas (KP/FATA) of Pakistan. This will smoothen the way for social welfare activities in these areas. Moreover, this will also help conducting intensified polio drives and eradicate the disease from these areas.
5. We admire the fact that majority of the Muslim countries have eradicated polio using the same oral polio vaccine (that is being used in Pakistan). The efforts made by the Governments and public of these countries are commendable.

We, the religious scholars, spiritual leaders, Muftis and intellectuals have examined the matter (polio eradication) from academic, jurisprudential (Islamic), medical and political perspectives and have thoroughly analyzed the doubts and suspicions that were raised. Trusting the information materials and explanations provided by the medical experts we have reached the conclusion that:

1. Polio vaccine being used in Pakistan is safe and effective.
2. Polio vaccine has no ingredients that cause infertility (or any harm to the reproductive system).

3. Polio vaccine does not contain any “*Haram (prohibited)*” or hazardous to health ingredients.

Necessary steps should be taken to disseminate, satisfying research based answers/facts regarding the above matters among the public.

We fully agree and support the commitment to polio eradication and reiterate our commitment that:

1. We will encourage and advise (using our influence) the general public to ensure polio vaccination of all the children, every time (during polio campaigns). Besides, we will also encourage them to complete the routine immunization for their children.
2. We will play our role effectively to overcome the existing social, cultural, political and security related barriers (in regards to polio eradication).
3. We ourselves and through the religious scholars at the district and union council levels, will ensure effective dissemination of messages to the public that safety and sanctity of the polio teams is our joint responsibility.
4. We will play our role effectively to mobilize the public/communities for polio eradication. Moreover, we will also ensure the engagement of the district and union council level religious leaders/figures in this regard.
5. We will make our best efforts to enhance awareness about polio eradication utilizing personal and institutional influence.

We consider that the consultation meeting in Islamabad has provided an opportunity for religious scholars, health specialists and doctors to jointly examine the situation of polio eradication (in the country), the hindrances and their solutions. This meeting has also been an opportunity for us to deliver our recommendations to the relevant authorities and agree on the right direction of our support and role.

We express utmost admiration for the zealous and untiring efforts for polio eradication, appreciate them and solemnly pledge to play an effective role to provide our children a “Polio Free Pakistan”.

ANNEX 2 LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI)

1. **Dr Ahmad Yousif A. Al-Draiweesh**
President, International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI)
2. **Dr Ziaul Haq**
Dean of Faculty of Shariah and Law, International Islamic University, Islamabad
3. **Dr Muhammad Imtiaz Zafar**
Associate Professor, Dawa Academy International Islamic University, Islamabad

International Participants

1. **Dr Mohammad Wesam**
Senior Scholar, Dar Al Ifta Al Missriya
2. **Dr Yagoub Al Mazrou**
Secretary General, Council of Health Services
3. **Dr. Abdulqahir Mohammed Qamar**
Director of Fatwa Department, The International Islamic Fiqh Academy Jeddah

National Participants

1. **Senator Maulana Sami ul Haq**
Head of Jamiah Darul Ulom Haqqaniah, Nowshera
2. **Maulana Tahir Ashrafi**
Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council, Lahore
3. **Professor Dr. Dost. Muhammad**
Director, Sheikh Zayed Islamic Centre, University of Peshawar
4. **Dr. Tanveer Zubairi**
Secretary, Federation of Islamic Medical Association (FIMA), Lahore
5. **Dr Tariq Butta**
Chairman of NCC & member of Pakistan Pediatric Association
6. **Maulana M. Obaid ullah**
Sheikh ul Hadith, Madrassa Al Hasnain, Faisalabad
7. **Maulana Rafi Usmani**
Head of Dar-ul-Uloom Korangi, Karachi

8. **Mufti Mirza Masood Baig**
Chairman Jamia Madarsa-tul-Banat & Member of Advisory Board at Jamia Binoria
Karachi
9. **Dr. Noor Ahmed Shahtaz**
Director, Shaikh Zaid Islamic Center, University of Karachi
10. **Dr Atta Ur Rehman**
Inter-Faith Religious Council Balochistan, Quetta
11. **Molvi Abdul Baqi Sb**
Madrassa Jaamia Taleem ul Qur'an, Quetta
12. **Molvi Anwaar-ul-Haq Haqqani**
Khateeb Markazi Jaamia Suraj Ganj Bazar, Quetta
13. **Mr Mohammed Ilyas khan**
Secretary Council of Islamic Ideology Pakistan, Islamabad
14. **Mr. Shahid Ahmad**
Representative, Islamic Development Bank, Islamabad

Government of Pakistan
Prime Minister's Polio Monitoring & Coordination Cell

1. National Coordinator PM Advocacy Cell, Islamabad
2. **Mr Mazhar Nisar**
Health Education Advisor, GoP, Islamabad

GPEI Secretariat

WHO/HQ

1. **Dr Naveed Sadozai**
Technical Officer, Strategy and Surge Support Unit, WHO HQ, Geneva

WHO/EMRO

2. **Dr Ezzeddine Mohsni**
Coordinator Immunization & Vaccine Team; Coordinator Polio Eradication
WHO Eastern Regional Mediterranean Regional Office, Cairo
3. **Dr Tahir Mir**
Regional Advisor/POL, WHO EMRO, Cairo

WHO/Pakistan

4. **Dr Ni'ma Abid**
WHO Representative, Islamabad
5. **Dr Elias Durry**
Senior Emergency Coordinator WHO, Islamabad
6. **Dr Abdulwahab Al Anesi**
Medical Officer, WHO, Islamabad
7. **Dr Zubair Mufti**
Polio National Professional Officer PEI, WHO, Islamabad
8. **Dr Sarfaraz Afridi**
FATA Coordinator, WHO, Peshawar
9. **Dr. Mumtaz Laghari**
NEAP officer.

UNICEF

10. **Dr. Shamsheer Ali Khan**
Coordinator for High Risk Populations, UNICEF, Islamabad

BMGF

11. **Waqar Ajmal**
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, New York

Rotary International

12. Mr Aziz Memon

Chair Polio Plus Committee Pakistan, Rotary International, Karachi

13. Haji Hanif Tayyab

Chairman of Rotary Ulema Committee, Rotary International, Karachi

ANNEX 3. AGENDA/PROGRAMME

National Consultation of Muslim Scholars on Polio Eradication

5-6 June 2013, Islamabad, Pakistan

5th June

Time	Topic / Activity	Facilitator(s) / Participant(s)
Press Conference – To Share the Context of the Meeting (1300 hrs.)		
Prayers & Lunch (1330 hrs.)		
Opening Session (14.00 – 14.45) <i>Chair: Dr. Ahmad Yousif A. Al-Draiweesh - President IIUI</i> <i>Moderator Dr.Talib Hussain Sial Director IRD</i>		
1400 – 1405	Recitation from Holy Quran	Dr Mohammad Wesam Senior Scholar, Dar Al Ifta Al Missriya
1405 – 1420	Introduction of the Participants	
1420 – 1425	Welcome Address	Dr.Muhammad Zia ul Haq – Dean Faculty of Sharia & law IIUI
1425 – 1430	Remarks	Dr Mohammad Wesam Senior Scholar, Dar Al Ifta Al Missriya
1430 – 1435		Maulana Sami ul Haq
1435 – 1445		Dr. Ahmad Yousif A. Al-Draiweesh - President IIUI
Plenary session 1: Update on Current Situation (14.45 – 16.30) <i>Chairing Panel: Dr. Tanveer Zubairi</i>		
1445 – 1505	Global Islamic Scholars Initiative on Polio Eradication: Briefing on 6-7 March Cairo Meeting	Dr Yagoub Al Mazrou Secretary General, Council of Health Services
1505 – 1520	Current status of polio eradication (global and national)	Dr Tariq Butta Chairman of NCC & member of Pakistan Pediatric Association
1520 - 1630	Discussion on presentations; and about OPV Safety <i>(Religious and Helath Context of the OV Safety)</i>	Panelists and participants
<i>Prayer and Coffee Break (1630 – 1700)</i>		
Plenary session2 : Problems in Polio Reservoirs & Possible Solutions/steps for District and UC levels (1700 – 1900 Hrs) <i>Panel Chair: Maulana Sami ul Haq, panel members: Moderator, Dr.Muhammad Zia ul Haq – Dean Faculty of Sharia & law IIUI</i>		
1700 - 1730	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; Killings of Polio Workers	<i>Maulana Sami ul Haq, Maulana Tayyab, Prof. Dr. Dost Muhammad & participants,</i>
1730 – 1800	Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) Ban on Vaccination in south and north Waziristan	
1800 – 1830	Karachi Gadap	<i>Maulana Rafi Usmani, Dr. Ejaz Ahmad Khan & participants</i>
1830 – 1900	Quetta Block (Quetta, Pishin, Killa Abdullah)	<i>Dr. Atta ur Rehman, Molvi Abdul Baqi, Maulvi Anwar ul Haq & participants</i>

6th June

Time	Topic / Activity	Facilitator(s) / Participant(s)
<p align="center">Plenary session 3: Formation of National Islamic Advisory Group ; NIAG (9 00 -1 0:30) <i>Chair : Dr. Atta ur Rehman Moderator Dr.Imtiaz Zafar</i></p> <p align="center">Functioning Mechanisms & Terms of Reference (TORs) of NIAG Panel Discussion</p>		
<p align="center">Coffee Break (10 : 30 to 11 00)</p>		
<p align="center">Closing Session: Chair: Dr Mohammed Wessam Moderator: Dr Mohammed Zia ul Haq Finalization, adoption and signing of Declaration (11:00 – 12: 00)</p> <p align="center">Facilitators: Tahir Ashrafi, , Prof. Tariq Bhutta , Dr. Tanveer Zubairi</p>		
1200 -1300	Recommendations in 3 languages	<i>Panelists: Dr Yagoub Al Mazrou Dr. Mohammed Wesam and Dr.Imtiaz Zafar</i>
1300 – 1315	Vote of Thanks	<i>Dr.Muhammad Zia ul Haq – Dean Faculty of Sharia & law IIUI</i>
<p align="center">Lunch and prayers 13: 15</p>		