



**Statement by Pakistan at 152<sup>nd</sup> session the WHO Executive Board (EB152)**  
**Agenda 13.1: Poliomyelitis eradication**  
(2 February 2023)

**Thank you, Madam President**

We take note of both reports.

Pakistan remains committed to the goal of Polio eradication within the set timeline and will continue all its efforts towards this end.

The unprecedented floods affected the pace of the nationwide immunization campaign last year.

We are optimistic so far this year, as we haven't had a case reported since September 2022. First anti-Polio campaign of the year has already commenced, aiming to vaccinate around 45 million children.

**Madam President,**

The National Emergency Action Plan (2020) for Polio Eradication clearly outlines the objectives which *inter alia* include rapid detection, containment, and elimination of all polioviruses from newly infected areas, as well as protecting the overall health of populations by maintaining and increasing immunity to poliovirus infection through implementing quality supplementary immunization activities and strengthening essential immunization.

Awareness raising and public communication campaigns are also an important part of this policy.

To quell the risk of cross-border circulation of the virus between Afghanistan and Pakistan, there is continued alignment of Pakistan's vaccination schedule with Afghanistan's vaccination schedule, as coordination between these two countries is critical to containment of the virus.

Pakistan continues to strengthen the disease surveillance system, both AFP surveillance and environmental surveillance. Around 350,000 polio workers are engaged in the process, who form one of the largest disease surveillance workforces globally.

Number of sites for environmental surveillance have been increased. There are currently 60 sampling sites for environmental detection in 40 towns and districts of the country making it the largest environmental surveillance network in the world.

We welcome support from all partners in making the world polio free.

I thank you.