



Statement by Pakistan at 154th session the WHO Executive Board (EB154)
Agenda 17.1: Poliomyelitis eradication
(25 January 2024)

Thank you, Madam Chair,

We thank the Director General for his report providing an update on Polio Eradication Strategy 2022-26.

Pakistan reiterates its firm resolve to eradicate Polio within the set timeline and will continue to work with all partners to achieve this goal.

We are encouraged to note that number of wild poliovirus type 1 cases were down from 15 in 2022 to 5 in 2023.

For this, we wish to commend the tireless efforts of polio eradication workforce to ensure that the vaccine reaches every child.

We also wish to thank WHO and all global partners for their continued support and cooperation in strengthening the health system in terms of its immunization efforts and surveillance capacities.

Our collective efforts will not stop until we have achieved the goal of complete eradication of the disease.

Pakistan has launched some novel initiatives to increase the outreach to all communities. One such initiative is “Nomad Vaccination Initiative”, which includes vaccination for children in nomadic families. Vaccinators have reached remote areas, traveling long distances in mobile teams, to reach hundreds and thousands of children living in nomadic tribes which receive polio vaccine through this initiative.

The government is also taking steps to increase its environmental surveillance capacity. We currently have 60 sampling sites for environmental

detection in 40 towns and districts across the country, which helps the government in tracking the spread of disease.

Disinformation about the polio eradication campaign, unfortunately, continues to be one of the biggest hurdles in achieving the goal of complete eradication. Education and awareness about polio vaccine and its effects therefore remains at the core of Pakistan's National Emergency Action Plan (NEAP) for Polio Eradication.

To achieve our objective, we hope for continued financial and technical cooperation of our global partners in assisting national immunization efforts.

Thank you.