



**Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN
Geneva**

Statement

**Statement by First Secretary, Mr. Adeel Mumtaz Khokhar
under agenda item no.16 on Health Emergencies and Polio**

**158 Session of WHO Executive Board
(2-7 February 2026)**

Thank you Chair,

Chair, I wish to draw your attention to the fact that this agenda item was politicized by the very first speaker. We regret that no similar observation was made from the Chair when that intervention concluded.

Pakistan also reiterates its support for the one China principle and reaffirm that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China.

Chair,

Pakistan continues to face complex and protracted pressures on its health system driven by multiple, overlapping challenges, including the long-term hosting of millions of refugees. This sustained burden underscores the importance of peace and stability in our region, so countries can shift from crisis response to health promotion, prosperity, and economic development. Preventing health emergencies and building resilient health systems are inseparable from these broader objectives.

In this regard, Pakistan believes that WHO should focus on country driven needs, protect essential services, and prevent excess mortality. Coordination with national authorities is key, while leveraging partnerships with other UN agencies, regional mechanisms, and local organizations.

Chair,

Pakistan remains on the frontline of polio. We have strengthened polio actions through nationwide vaccination campaigns, targeted outreach in high-risk districts, and real time surveillance, alongside enhanced coordination with provincial authorities and frontline health workers. We are also expanding community

engagement and risk communication, including through trusted local leaders, to address demand side barriers and improve acceptance in hard-to-reach areas.

We reaffirm our commitment to achieving a polio free world and look forward to continuing close cooperation with WHO and other relevant partners.

Thank you