



150th SESSION of the WHO EXECUTIVE BOARD

(Geneva, 24–29 January 2022)

10:00AM – 5:00PM (CET)/2:30PM – 9:30PM (IST)

Agenda: Pillar 2: One billion more people better protected from health emergencies

Item 16: Poliomyelitis

(Word Count: 250)

Thank you, Chair!

India takes note of the Report by DG on ‘Poliomyelitis eradication’ and ‘Polio transition planning and polio post-certification’.

In this regard, **India appreciates and acknowledges** the well-coordinated efforts and support from states, WHO-National Polio Surveillance Project (NPSP), other partners and donors for India’s polio free status.

Taking note of the Para 15 & 16 of the report, India would like to share that:

- **Firstly**, India is sustaining Polio free status for 10 years. However, there is transmission of wild poliovirus type 1 in two neighbouring endemic countries and outbreaks of circulating Vaccine Derived Poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV type 2) in some countries keeps India at high risk of importation.
- **Secondly**, India is in the list of low priority countries for Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) support as the interest of donors has reduced in polio infrastructure in view of declining trend of polio worldwide. This has led to decline in committed funding support for WHO-NPSP. Recognizing the need to build on lessons learnt from Polio, and to leverage the polio assets for wider public health gains, **we urge that global funding from GPEI for Polio and WHO-NPSP should continue as global challenges are still there for all the countries, especially when high numbers of wild poliovirus type 1 and cVDPV type 2 (Vaccine Derived Poliovirus type 2) cases are getting reported.**

Chair,

India realizes that it is critical for India and all countries across the world to sustain and strengthen gains made so far in polio eradication and immunization Programme.

Thank you.