

**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE September 2024  
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN  
Seventy-first Session  
Doha, Qatar, 14–17 October 2024**

**Statement of I.R. Iran on:  
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR ACHIEVING UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE AND HEALTH  
SECURITY: NURTURING THE OPPORTUNITIES AND MITIGATING THE RISKS**

Sir, Madam/Mr. Chairman

Attention to artificial intelligence in this meeting is appreciated. Monitoring the effects of artificial intelligence on health is necessary for its rapid growth and capabilities. If this issue is not carefully investigated, it may have destructive effects in this field.

Artificial intelligence has incredible effects on people's behavior in the prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of diseases. Therefore, it is necessary to address both the general population and the capabilities of artificial intelligence and its scope of influence. Due to people's access to this tool, they prefer to receive answers to their questions from artificial intelligence and do not feel the need to refer to health care worker for training.

Also, with the expansion of artificial intelligence, self-healing may increase and cause significant effects on the treatment system. Of course, it is not possible to accurately predict the result at the moment.

Another area where artificial intelligence affects the performance of health system employees is in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases. This area can be from providing a simple consultation to performing complex surgeries. Definitely, in the case of a correct management, this strategy can help improve health.

According to the foregoing, the following two points should be noted

The use of artificial intelligence should be adapted to the general conditions of each country's population, infrastructure, culture, health and budget. Otherwise, it will not have beneficial effects, but it will be destructive. This issue may cause people's behavior to deviate from the main path and be approved and abused.

Artificial intelligence should be placed as a tool to help health system employees, and the final decision and intervention should be made by health system employees. Otherwise, the employees of the health system will gradually lose their skills, and the performance of artificial intelligence will not be able to be monitored and evaluated.

In the end, it is suggested that artificial intelligence should be considered and used with the approach of localization, maintaining security and as an auxiliary tool for humans. At now, the establishment and use of artificial intelligence in the field of early warning and surveys related to people's behaviors such as nutrition, physical activity and health literacy can be used as the first step.

**Many thanks for your attention**