

Statement of I.R. Iran on:
"Strategic framework for blood safety and availability, 2016–2025"

We express our sincere gratitude to the regional office of WHO for its efforts in advancing the implementation of strategic framework for blood safety and availability (2016-2025).

As outlined in the progress report, Iran, as a Collaborating Center of WHO on Research and Training in Blood Safety, has undertaken various initiatives in line with the regional strategic framework, including workshops, regional meetings, and scientific congresses:

In line with Paragraph 4 and 5, the Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization (IBTO) conducted a variety of activities including:

- The International Workshop on the Organization and Management of National Blood Transfusion Systems from July 4-7, 2022 attended by 40 blood transfusion experts and managers from 11 countries (Paragraph 4)
- The 5th International Congress on May 25-26, 2024, with international guests from 16 countries (Paragraph 5).
- Following the inaugural Meeting of Group 5 (G5) Blood Transfusion Directors in Iran in February 2022, and in support of enhancing blood transfusion medicine education in the region, the IBTO announced its readiness to provide educational scholarships for two students from G5 member states pursuing doctoral programs in Transfusion Medicine in 2024.
- A four-day international online workshop titled "Optimal Use of Recovered and Source Plasma for Fractionation," which participants from ten regional countries (Paragraph 10)

Additionally, in May 2024, the IBTO signed a joint memorandum of understanding with Libya to offer technical and educational support.

With reference to Paragraph 14, Iran requests WHO's assistance in facilitating knowledge exchange regarding the recruitment of young and female donors. Specifically, we seek the arrangement of short-term courses for Iranian experts in successful and developed countries.

Furthermore, in line with Paragraph 15 and as per our request in WHA77 statement, we request once again the WHO and specifically EMRO to coordinate a visit by a team of WHO consultants and experts. So they can evaluate the current status, existing barriers and explore plasma fractionation capacities in Iran, with the aim of facilitating technology transfer, naturalizing plasma fractionation knowledge, and seeking possible solutions to remove the obstacles.

While we acknowledge the valuable collaboration of the former WHO staff in the regional office in charge of the blood safety, we are concerned about this currently vacant position, as emphasized in the WHA77 statement as well. This gap has disrupted our collaboration with the regional office and suspension of two joint research projects with EMRO. Therefore, we kindly request that the regional office promptly appoint a new staff in the field of blood safety.

Madam/Mr. chairperson, thank you for this opportunity and many thanks for your attention.