

**Statement of I.R. Iran on:**

**Building resilient health systems to advance universal health coverage and ensure health security in the Eastern Mediterranean Region**

First of all, it is necessary to thank the compilers of the important document of the report on the progress of the action taken in the region to make the health systems resilient. This document has well presented the policies, programs and important measures that the countries of the region have done to strengthen the resilience of their health systems in cooperation with the regional office of the World Health Organization in the Eastern Mediterranean region. The lessons learned from the Covid-19 pandemic and the countries in the region facing other crises showed the importance of flexible health systems. Health system resilience means responding to emergency situations and maintaining essential health services during a crisis. To build resilient health systems, we need to focus on the following priorities:

- Strengthening the risk management of health emergencies and disasters by increasing the capacity of health systems to prevent, prepare, identify and respond to emerging situations.
- Effective governance and the creation of effective mechanisms and organizations in the matter of policy-making based on evidence and the required administrative requirements.
- Paying special attention to the design of health service delivery models based on primary health care based on the new conditions of the countries in which the comprehensiveness and quality of the service are respected and respond to the health needs of the people.
- Investing in improving the quality and quantity of skilled human resources in the health system and increasing their motivational system.
- Increasing the financial support needed by health systems and creating a mechanism for fair distribution of health resources.
- Strengthening the integrated health information system based on modern digital health technologies.
- Strengthening the integrated approach in health policy, planning and investment in the context of inter-sectoral cooperation and public participation

It should be noted that the Islamic Republic of Iran, in line with the management of the risk of accidents and disasters, has foreseen a comprehensive plan in the 7th progress plan, based on which it is considered "the plan to secure and improve the resilience of the country's hospitals and health-treatment centers in the years of the 7th plan" be implemented". (Chapter 14 of the health system - Article 70 - Clause).

Creating resilient health systems requires cooperation, investment and commitment to continuous improvement. Let's create equitable, efficient and resilient health systems through global and regional cooperation and partnership.

**Suggestion for the interaction of the honorable official of the Ministry with the officials of the World Health Organization:**

The Islamic Republic of Iran has a high capacity in the field of implementing strategic programs in the direction of health development and prevention of disasters and outbreaks, and has gained valuable experiences during the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore, for the implementation of comprehensive programs and targeted and forward-looking measures in the direction of resilience of the health system, it has the support of the World Health Organization and the benefit of international consultations, which can be the basis of future cooperation and the exchange of regional experiences.

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