

Statement of I.R. Iran on:

Accelerating the prevention, control and elimination of communicable diseases through integration: optimizing support from Gavi and the Global Fund

We sincerely appreciate WHO technical taskforce for this, invaluable and practical progress report.

Firstly, it is important to mention that progress assessment of health services through domestic and international support have an outstanding role in improving the related programs to achieve the targeted goals. So we consider this progress report crucial for making decision in future.

The Global Fund Project in I.R. Iran has supported three vertical programs (HIV, TB, and Malaria) since 2005, but malaria excluded from receiving fund from the Global Fund in 2017 due to elimination of the disease in the country. Although, TB program became ineligible to receive fund since 2014, but over the past six years TB re-considered receiving fund from GF due to the a growing number of migrants and refugees from Afghanistan within the context of an innovative GF multi-country project. However, the allocated fund of the project was limited to the mentioned population. In spite of ending the multi-country project, and meeting the two GF's eligibility criteria once again for allocating separate fund to Iran, including burden of the disease and country income, but TB and Hepatitis C have received limited fund under the HIV GC7 Project.

In I.R.Iran Global Fund Project plays an important role for implementation of National Strategic Plans and achieving the defined goals. Practically, in the presence of strict sanctions, GF provided support to access health commodities for HIV, TB, and Hepatitis. The focus of support addresses limited health workforce, training workshops, and access to commodities and ARVs according to the resolution EM/RC69/R.3.

The GF support for each disease is as such:

HIV: supply of HIV rapid and ELISA test, Viral load kit, drug resistance, Real-time PCR equipment, Point of Care molecular tests, equipment for drug resistance and for sustainability of HIV Laboratory Network.

TB: The supply of rapid molecular detection tools (equipment and kit) for case detection, antimicrobial resistance, active case finding in vulnerable and high risk groups, and supply of Anti-TB medications (especially the second line treatment) is included in our work plan, but it needs improvement considering the necessity of high coverage of this population.

Finally, considering a variety of factors such as strict sanctions, the COVID-19 pandemic, and various health priorities, all efforts are focused on continuity of the quality health services for the

targeted diseases. The treatment outcomes until now are assessed effective. Although the major gap in HIV program is insufficient case finding, but several innovative programs for improvement are designed and being implemented. Therefore, continuous support of the Global Fund Project vital for the country.

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