Statement of I.R. Iran on:
"Enhancement and digitalization of health information systems in the countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region: a regional strategy (2024-2028)"

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Honorable Chair, distinguished delegates,
At the outset, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to the secretariat for their efforts in drafting this document and addressing the fundamental issue at the 71st Session of the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Committee.

Islamic Republic of Iran fully supports all four Strategic Goals. Let us to inform you that Goal 1 that emphasizes on national HIS governance has been a priority in Iran's five-year Seventh National Development Plan. Considering variety of challenges in our region; one of the important strategies to overcome those challenges will be the development digital health information system. Therefore, it is very important to strengthen governance in digital health for correct access to integrated health information systems accordingly to provide efficient health care services. It is also necessary for governments to provide the necessary grounds for the participation of the private sector in digital health, which has a large economic market.

Iran has introduced the Regulatory Operatory approach, a model designed to address fragmented and non-integrated data systems.

We recognize the importance of infrastructure development and workforce capacity building, which are well addressed in the document. Given the rapid pace of technological advancements, we propose development of a systematic human resource development plan that aligns with the technical capacities of the Member States.

Iran has already established a National Health Database, incorporating electronic health records with a focus on utilizing data standards and interoperability standards.

We plan to incorporate other recommended standards, such as Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR), into the technical structure of data exchanges alongside the open EHR architecture. In line with the Strategic Goal 4, the collected data in this National Repository will support both individual patient care and inform national-level policy-making and oversight. For example, a Tagging service has been established that uses National Health Database, based on priorities and linked to the health census data. This service aims to ensure continuity of care, financial protection for patients, equitable distribution of limited resources, disease control, and systematic oversight of treatments.

Mr Chairman;
We reiterate that the development of digital health should be a component in the development of the service delivery system, and should not be considered abstractly. In addition, the health information system should be people-oriented and tailored to the specific conditions of each country.

In order to integrate the development of digital health in the service delivery system, it is suggested to integrate the strategies of the digital health information system in the joint strategic plan of IHR and the health system (HSSP).

Together, let's welcome the digital transformation, research, development and innovations in the area of health information system. By doing so, we can ensure equitable, efficient and people-centered health systems across our region.

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