

Floor Statement: Polio

On behalf of GHC, and supported by PATH, ACTION, RESULTS UK, and the American Academy of Pediatrics thanks you for the opportunity to address *polio transition planning*.

The eventual loss of polio infrastructure, staff, and funding poses significant public health risks, in addition to the fact that environmental surveillance and continued IPV vaccination will be required post-certification.

Thus, we are pleased to see progress exhibited in the Director General's polio transition planning report. We applaud WHO for clearly identifying priorities for technical assistance, status of country transition plans, and post certification financial requirements. These are essential first steps. Similarly, we appreciate that polio transition is being considered through the lens of WHO's three strategic priorities, enabling all related actors to maximize WHO's contribution to wider development goals.

Ahead of finalizing the strategic action plan by the World Health Assembly, we call for additional focus on the following:

- First, country transition plans must be finalized and implemented as soon as possible –the EB should continue to encourage commitments by Member States, to be made at WHA 2018, in order to maintain progress. Further transparency and accountability must be provided around deliverables, timelines and indicators of country plan ownership to ensure gaps in the Expanded Programs of Immunization do not occur, particularly for vulnerable populations.
- Second, clarification around transition management must be paired with clear commitments of financial resources from national governments, to fully fund critical functions previously supported by GPEI.
- Third, as raised in the latest TIMB report, the eventual absence of a coordinating body like GPEI will leave gaps which are currently unacknowledged or understood. Clarity on where those roles and responsibilities will lay is essential.

Finally, all elements of transition planning must come with a robust communication effort to ensure that stakeholders beyond the polio community remain informed.