
World Health Organization
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5.3 Polio Eradication

Thank you chai,

Israel takes note of the report by the Director General on the status of the Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan 2013–2018, and the challenges to achieving a lasting polio-free world.

We would like to thank the Director General and the secretariat for preparing this document, and specifically for including very relevant and contemporary updates on the current state of both wild and vaccine driven poliovirus.

As the movement of persons within and between states becomes more prevalent, there is an urgent need to improve surveillance systems. We specifically would like to note in this regard the effectiveness of surveillance of sewage systems in the early detection of polioviruses, especially in populations at highest risk of poliovirus transmission. Israel is ready to support such efforts and share best practices.

We also believe that a contingency plan for obtaining and using monovalent oral type 2 polio vaccine to respond to cases or outbreaks of cVDPV – 2 is required.

The way forward to final eradication of polio is complicated and requires strong WHO leadership and commitment of member states. We encourage all sides to closely monitor the situation until we reach our goal and we look forward to the strategy that would cover the period between 2019-2023, to be presented in the 72nd World Health Assembly in May 2019.

Thank you chair.