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**World Health Organization**  
**WHA 71 – 24 May 2018**

**Committee A**  
**Polio Transition**

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Thank you Chair,

Israel would like to thank the Secretariat for its ongoing work in this field, and in particular for the draft strategic action plan on polio transition contained in document A71/9. We are pleased with the outlined objectives, the specific timelines, and the common-sense approach to mainstreaming polio transition efforts into WHO's standing operations and departments.

This draft could not be timelier. As the Global Polio Eradication Initiative is ramping down towards its expected 2019 deadline, now is the moment for the WHO to assume its natural position as the global leader in continued efforts for both eradication and post-eradication. As co-sponsors of decision WHA70/9 in the 70th WHA, we feel there is a real sense of urgency in this matter. Going into the specifics of the draft strategic action plan, Israel would like to highlight the need for continued support of monitoring and in-country reporting mechanisms, in addition to external oversight. We'd also like to emphasize the importance of the careful phasing out of staff and resources in different countries according to their needs.

It is important to keep in mind that the goal of eradication has not yet been achieved. Eradicating polio, or any illness for that matter, is a historic event. Therefore, the proper execution of both eradication and transition are critical, as they could serve as a model for future eradication programs. Furthermore, while this plan revolves around polio, it would also advance global health security for countless people and generations to come, and bring us a step closer to achieving the SDGs. We look forward to working with the Secretariat as it sees through the implementation of this plan.

Thank you very much.