
World Health Organization
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Plenary

Delivered by Ambassador Aviva Raz Shechter
Permanent Representative of Israel in Geneva

Mr. Chair, Honorable delegates,

Israel is committed to achieving the objective of sustainable development goal 3 and all the three WHO triple billion goals under the 13th general program of work for 2019-2023.

Universal health coverage was introduced in Israel in 1995. Since then, every resident of Israel enjoys the advantages of high quality health services. From preventative public health strategies, early detection and health-technologies, our health system is focused not only on treating diseases - but on keeping the population healthy, as well.

Israel has remarkably high health indicators, ranking 6th in the Bloomberg health care efficiency index with high life expectancy and low infant mortality rates. The OECD has identified Israel as having - and I quote - "one of the most enviable health care systems among the OECD countries".

As a Startup Nation, Israel constantly seeks to bring its high-tech know-how and innovative spirit to provide better healthcare with limited resources. We have adopted a pro-active health-promotion and disease-prevention approach.

Hence,

1. In the field of digital health. The HMOs in Israel hold the 2nd and 3rd largest medical databases in the world, with over two decades of longitudinal, integrated and diverse data. Utilizing this medical data goldmine, we strive to create data-driven guidelines for policy, regulations, and research as part of our national digital health strategy.
2. Israel has long ago succeeded in creating a unified, national Health Information Exchange platform. Caregivers save lives by sharing clinical information across all points of care.

3. TIMNA, a big-data research platform, is a repository of de-identified data. It includes big-data tools that enable scientists to generate insights and identify patterns that can be implemented in decision support systems. Big data tools such as TIMNA enable precision medicine, earlier detection, and disease prevention through predictive modeling.
4. Precision medicine is already practiced as treatment of individuals – taking into account biological, behavioral and environmental differences. Our precision medicine initiative, Mosaic, seeks to match the most effective treatment for each patient; dramatically improving the rate of success while avoiding superfluous medical care.
5. NCDs are a growing challenge. With advanced health technologies, like wearable devices that aid in monitoring, early detection and intervention, individuals with multiple chronic conditions can live full and active lives.
6. As part of our robust preventative public health program –Israel will introduce a food labeling policy, making it easier to identify high levels of sugar, salt and fat in prepackaged food and enabling all to make healthier decisions concerning their nutrition.
7. Israel has a comprehensive immunization program for all and was one of the first to vaccinate against influenza in schools. The status of the population's immunization is tracked in a single system creating a broad database.

Health challenges are in many cases global ones.

Israel is committed to collaborating with WHO and its member states towards mutual improvement of healthcare capacities for all. It is for our mutual benefit to reach WHO's goals and support programs like the new digital health strategy, the Global Coordination Mechanism for NCDs, and the EMTS project in the Emergencies pillar. We offer our cooperation to advance health systems and to allow every man, woman and child to receive affordable, equal and comprehensive medical care.

I thank you for your attention.