

Intervention read by :

**Thank you Chair,**

**Sri Lanka notes the report of the Director General**

Sri Lanka recognized the National Immunization Programme (NIP) as a long-term investment for a healthy nation. The NIP is well-focused on the global overarching vision of Immunization Agenda 2030 to get the full benefits from vaccines through the life course approach.

The country is well-aware of the IA 2030 and trained experts are available in the NIP Ministry of Health for full implementation of strategies in IA 2030 in the country, for expected results through 2022-2030. Country is preparing National Immunization Strategy (NIS) 2022-2030, with interim 5-year strategic plan to be completed and to assess the progress of the road map, towards achieving progress in 2030.

Full efforts are taken in targeting to reduce the morbidity and mortality from vaccine preventable disease, through the life course approach ensuring the delivery of immunization in line with primary health care, contributing to Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and SDG.

Country considered to further strengthen Immunization Programme focusing to identified 7 priority areas in the IA 2030, with overarching priority of “Immunization for primary health care, UHC”. Country has ensured high level political and programmatic “commitment and continued demand generation” will be assured. In fact, “vaccination coverage and equity” are already maintained above 95% over a decade and will be sustained with further strategies.

The immunization programme is already managed as the communicable disease prevention strategy to deliver “life course and integration”. Country has already showed results of Covid-19 pandemic control through responding to “outbreaks and emergencies”, which has built up on the platform of Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) and plan to further update and strengthen the priority area.

Immunization programme supplies are considered as the priority in the country and dedicated budget allocations are available through the health expenditure for vaccine procurement process, in line with priority “supply and sustainability”. All operational costs are well integrated in to the public health delivery care costs with country ownership and accountability at all levels.

The country has involved in applied research and Ministry of Health ensure the evidence-based recommendations for informed appropriate and timely decisions on immunization to further strengthen the immunization programme under the “research and innovation” priority area.

Sri Lanka ensure the people centred, data guided, country owned NIP by the Ministry of Health with global and regional strategic priorities in collaboration with partner organizations. Country is committed to provide immunization services through equitable access to all eligible persons during this Covid-19 pandemic situation.

Thank you