

# International Ulama Conference on Polio Eradication

بين الاقوامی علماء کانفرنس برائے انسداد پولیو  
المؤتمر الدولي للعلماء حول إستئصال شلل الأطفال

15-16 June 2014, Islamabad, Pakistan



## ISLAMABAD DECLARATION / FATWA

### International Ulama Conference on Polio Eradication 15-16 June 2014, Islamabad Pakistan

We, the Ulama of Islamic Republic Pakistan and the Muslim World along with international Islamic organizations including the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Al Azhar Al Sharif, the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), the International Islamic University of Islamabad (IIUI) and the National Islamic Advisory Group (NIAG) of Pakistan are participating in the International Ulama Conference in Islamabad; after having been briefed on the technical aspects of the polio eradication campaign, by senior Muslim health experts, we issue FATWA in the light of Sharia that the polio vaccine does not contain any harmful constituents, we reiterate that the use of polio vaccine is fully permissible under Islamic Sharia to protect individuals from polio.

We recommend that following steps are taken to save the children in the Muslim countries from the fatal and crippling disease of Polio:

We express our utmost solidarity with the global polio eradication program. We fully endorse the usage of oral polio vaccine currently being used, that has its constituents written on the vial/bottle and reaffirm and endorse all the national and international Fatwas issued in its favour.

We also strongly state that it is obligatory for parents and is the right of the children to be saved from the crippling disease of polio and its life-long adverse effects. It is the responsibility of the Government to take care of the children's health and do all the necessary arrangements in this regard.

In view that 54 of the 57 OIC member states/countries have used the same vaccine (that is used in Pakistan and other endemic countries) to eradicate polio, and that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has put a condition of polio vaccination and certification for performing Umrah, it is important and essential that the Government of Pakistan takes all necessary measures to enhance awareness among the masses about the purity and effectiveness of polio vaccine, possibly arrange vaccine manufacturing in Pakistan or procure it from Muslim countries (and/or trusted sources preparing vaccine in line with global standards); and also possibly enable the laboratories to test the vaccine.

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Fully trusting the statement of the Muslim health experts, we believe that polio eradication in Pakistan is possible only by effectively using the current oral polio vaccine. Keeping this in view, we make an appeal that access must be ensured for performing vaccination against polio across the country (all parts) and safety and security of polio vaccinators / health workers must be ensured; local Muslim teams may be selected in areas that had attacks on health workers – females following the local socio-cultural norms and pious men. We strongly condemn the use of polio eradication campaigns for any other (political) purposes.

We strongly condemn and denounce the attacks on polio workers as an act against the teachings of Islam; such acts are not acceptable at any cost. We appeal to the Government of Pakistan and its line departments and religious organizations to play their role in protecting the polio workers and health centers. This will enable them to fulfill their duties and save our children and families from dangerous diseases and hence save the future of the nation and the country.

We condemn the drone attacks in Pakistan and Nigeria. In conflict and war situations, it is a moral, humanitarian and religious obligation on the Governments to make arrangements and help the displaced populations.

We appeal to the media, masses and all concerned to obtain and disseminate correct and true information regarding polio eradication and to play a strong role against the elements disseminating false news, rumors and erroneous fatwas about polio. Such rumors can endanger the lives of hundreds of thousands of children.

We strongly appeal to the Government to continue dialogue with Ulama (religious leaders) under the forum of National Islamic Advisory Group with a special focus on the areas with polio outbreak. We fully agree and support the plan of the National Islamic Advisory Group.

We expect the media to join hands with national and international Ulama and health experts to overcome and remove the doubts and uncertainties in public minds about polio vaccine. The Government must ensure proper selection of teams as per every area's local cultural norms and preferences. The local Ulama (religious leaders) should support raising the teams in their respective areas.

By virtue of this conference, we request the Government of Pakistan and the Ministry of Health to formulate a comprehensive five-year plan on childhood vaccination against all potentially fatal diseases. We also request donors and partners to play an effective role in the campaign against polio.

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We are thankful to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), Al Azhar Al Sharif, and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for their extraordinary support to protect the children. We thank the OIC member states / countries and international partners for their financial and other contributions to eradicate polio from the endemic countries.

While assuring and reaffirming all our support, we sincerely hope that the Government of Pakistan and local influential elders would play their role to remove any public misconceptions about polio.