



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Meeting Statement

The National Islamic Advisory Group for Polio Eradication

Held on 7-8 Rabei Al Awal 1438 – 6-7 December 2016 at Hargeisa

Praise be to Allah and prayers and peace be upon the Messenger of Allah, Prophet Mohammad, and upon his kin and companions.

We, the Somali Ulama, came together to form the National Islamic Advisory Group (NIAG) to support efforts to keep all parts of our country polio free and to encourage its people to protect their children against all communicable but preventable diseases through immunization. We appreciate the pioneering role played by the Islamic Advisory Group for Polio Eradication (IAG), a partnership between Al Azhar Al Sharif, the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), along with other religious scholars, technical experts, and academics. We support the statements and recommendations of the IAG and its members, including the Jeddah Declaration of 2014.

We, the members of the NIAG, have been briefed by the authoritative health experts and practitioners of this field on the high importance of protecting the lives of children through vaccination. In light of the teachings of Prophet Mohammed, prayers and peace be upon him, who says, "There is no disease that Allah has created, except that He has also created its treatment" (Sahih Al-Bukhari), and out of our conviction that it is our duty to advise and guide for the best interest of the people:

1. We urge all parents to live up to their religious responsibility and protect their children against polio as well as all other vaccine-preventable diseases including Measles, Tetanus, Hepatitis B, Mumps, Pertussis, Diphtheria, Pneumonia, Pneumococcal Meningitis, and Haemophilus Influenza by immunizing them at the health facilities and during vaccination campaigns;
2. We stress on the importance of Islamic solidarity for the eradication of the two killer diseases of polio and measles just as the world was able to eradicate small pox in 1980;

3. We appeal to all opinion leaders at mosques, religious schools, educational institutions, and the media to promote childhood vaccination.

Finally, we would like to thank the Ministry of Endowment and Islamic Affairs in Somaliland and all those who endeavored in organizing this conference, and request all concerned parties to perform their duties regarding the eradication of polio and improving routine vaccination coverage. We appreciate the financial support of Muslim countries and organizations, including that of the ISDB.

May Allah grant success to all, and send His blessings upon Prophet Muhammad and his family and companions.