



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## Meeting Statement

### Third Islamic Advisory Group Meeting for Polio Eradication

Jeddah

22 Shawal 1437 - 27 July 2016

*Praise be to Allah and prayers and peace be upon the Messenger of Allah and on his kin and companions.*

The meeting hosted by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 22 Shawal 1437 – 27 July 2016, under the co-sponsorship of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), Al Azhar Al Sharif and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), The **Islamic Advisory Group for Polio Eradication (IAG)**;

1. Reaffirms its commitment to the global eradication of polio and reiterates its trust in the safety and effectiveness of all routine childhood vaccinations as a life-saving tool which protects children; and acknowledges that it fully conforms to Islamic rulings,
2. Reiterates that parents are under religious obligation to seek immunization for their children against all vaccine preventable diseases, to protect both individual and community health,
3. Welcomes the role of NIAGs in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Somalia, acknowledging the need and opportunity for a unified voice which will benefit the health and well-being of children and families,
4. Congratulates specifically the thousands of social and Islamic religious leaders, especially in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Somalia who have helped bring the world to the brink of polio eradication and in doing so have protected thousands of vulnerable children who may otherwise have been paralyzed or died, and encourages these leaders to support any future activities in dealing with any outbreak from the disease,
5. Commends the Governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan, who have embraced polio eradication as a national humanitarian duty and imperative, for their enhanced oversight and commitment to protect children from polio; and asks that this commitment is sustained further

until polio eradication is achieved, and routine immunization coverage reaches globally recognized standards;

6. Recognizes the excellent contribution of the media in informing public opinion to continue building public acceptance, trust, and support for polio eradication;
7. Appreciates the great humanitarian work done by vaccination teams against the disease and encourages cooperation, support, and respect for all health workers and their noble work; and commends the great sacrifices made by those workers for the protection of children from polio;
8. Calls on all parties to provide safe access to children living in all areas, especially high risk areas, for the delivery of health services including vaccinations,
9. Recognizes the need for this group to promote and influence better health outcomes for families, particularly mothers and children, and commits to expanding the scope of this Group to address other key mother and child health interventions,
10. Acknowledges the significant financial support provided by countries, philanthropists, financial institutions, and the international community, and in particular the strong commitment of the Islamic Development Bank, and calls on these donors to continue their support for the programs that the Group has adopted,
11. Re-affirms previous declarations and statements made by the IAG, and reiterates its willingness to work closely with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and other partners to reach every child wherever they are,
12. Expresses its gratitude to the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its generous support to polio programs in the targeted countries, and for hosting the third meeting of the IAG

With the praise of Allah, the Group recognizes the progress it has made and the impact it has left on polio affected and at-risk countries. It also points to the success it has achieved in implementing the work-plan of 2015-2016, and commits to the adoption and full implementation of the 2016-2017 work-plan, including the maintenance of the excellent coordination of the IAG Secretariat, enhancing the strategic communication of IAG goals, activities and impact, as well as supporting religious leaders in priority countries through visits and interactions.