

**Statement of I.R. Iran on
“Progress report on implementing the framework for improving national institutional
capacity for evidence-informed policy-making for health in the Eastern
Mediterranean Region, 2020-2024”**

**Mr./Madam Chairperson,
Excellences, ladies and gentlemen**

We would like to thank the regional director and the secretariat for their efforts in composing the document EM/RC70/INF.DOC.7. In the Eastern Mediterranean region, effective evidence-informed policy-making in the health sector is crucial but faces significant challenges. Despite this dilemma, The WHO/EMRO Region has made progresses in implementing the regional framework for evidence-informed policy-making for health, including the development of evidence-based guidelines and establishment of a regional network of institutions. One of the good initiatives has been supporting countries in developing their national institutional capacity and establishing rapid response processes for evidence-based recommendations in emergencies such as COVID-19., including offering training and creating a data-entry platform, and developing case-studies to describe how countries used evidence and data to inform policy-making.

We would like to suggest some strategies to strengthen capacity for evidence-informed policy-making in the region:

- To develop well-defined national strategies in line with the regional framework for capacity building. One of the strategic actions would be offering specialized training courses to decision-makers and researchers to enhance their knowledge and skills in evidence-informed policy-making with WHO support.
- To encourage effective research cycle management to facilitate the production of reliable and relevant evidences that can inform policy-making.
- To encourage the promotion and acceptance of evidence-based health interventions and policies by all stakeholders, reducing the influence of conflicts of interest and political inclinations.
- To consider changing the evaluation and assessment systems to be aligned better with evidence-informed policy-making. For example, to define incentives and rewards for researchers and faculty members to actively engage themselves in knowledge translation/or production to assist policy makers.
- To foster collaborations and partnerships between research institutions, policymakers, and other stakeholders to enhance knowledge, expertise, and resource exchange.

By implementing the suggested strategies, the EM region can improve its national institutions' capacities for evidence-informed policy-making, ensuring its policies and interventions are based on robust evidences. This will in turn lead to setting more effective policies and doing interventions, which improve health outcomes in the region.

Madam/Mr. chair, thank you for the floor.

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