Country: USA

Committee: World Health Organization

Topic: Eradication of Polio

United States of America believes the poliomyelitis caused by poliovirus is a global health problem. Up today, polio has been one of the most feared diseases not only in US, but in the whole world. Polio is a dangerous disease for which there is no cure. The lives of victims and their families change forever after paralysing disease. Polio is endemic in 125 countries and an estimated 300,000 to 400,000 people suffer from paralytic polio cases every year. Oral polio vaccine (OPV) rapidly eliminated all or almost all paralytic diseases caused by polioviruses from the economically developed temperate climate countries. The main challenge of vaccine control of poliomyelitis is in the subtropical and tropical regions of the world. Between 50% and 75% of all estimated cases of paralytic polio occur in South- East Asia. Only a multinational public health effort will be able to control and eradicate polio globally. Despite being cleared of polio, we, United States, want to be a key figure in leading the world against the spread of the disease. As USA we suggest to support countries which remain affected by poliovirus or are at high risk of polio re-emergence in implementing eradication strategies, focusing in the first instance on immunization and disease surveillance.

Across the United States epidemics, polio took the lives of about thousands of people, leaving thousands more paralyzed. Prior to vaccines, for nearly one in 200 people suffered paralysis. In acute polio, paralysis of the chest muscles, enables the patient to breathe unaided. This is a mortal situation. In USA at Harvard University, a tank respirator was developed for these people to survive until they could recover and breathe again on their own. After the development of vaccines in the 1950s, the incidents of polio infection fell dramatically and only a very few machines were needed in hospitals. As a result of its effective vaccination program The United States has been polio-free since 1979. In addition, USA has several surveillance systems for polio disease. In USA immunization with 3 or more doses of OPV vaccination about 5 years of age is overwhelmingly effective against the illness. the surveillance system for disease control are the morbidity reporting system, and vaccine adverse event reporting. The development and distribution of the vaccine against polio created a secure sense of hope in American society.

Like us, excellent vaccination coverage are also held in Germany, Italy, Sweden and France and many other developed countries. These countries have eliminated polio on a large scale like us. As a result we, as USA, invite these countries, to use their resources to aid other nations in need. Fighting poliomyelitis globally, can only be achieved by developed countries’ efforts. Vaccination is the most effective way to maintain and decrease the present incidence of the disease. Future plans are to continue mass vaccination in an attempt to reach all in need. This strategy can be implemented by preventing vaccination misuse, to constitute adequate cold chain supply and better coverages. World Health Organization can divert extra funds for these goals and USA is ready for financial support. Moreover, for developing surveillance systems for the endemic regions USA can be a model.