

Committee: WHO

Topic: Eradication of Polio

Country: Republic of the Philippines

Delegate: Mina MOROGLU,

An Egyptian stele portrays a priest with a withered leg, suggesting that polio has existed for thousands of years. (1580- BC 1350) The Philippines’ policy about polio is based on children’s safety and health. The Oral Poliovirus Vaccine is a mandatory vaccine for immunization. The 1st major polio immunization project assisted was launched in the Philippines in 1980. Briefly, the Philippines was a pioneer in increasing polio immunization.

Noting with deep concern, the Philippines has always been dealing with Polio. In 1988 the total number of polio cases is 343.921.500. In 1980, OPV3 (Oral Poliovirus Vaccine) was started to utilize this vaccine with 3 doses and each year its effect rose. Without a doubt, The Philippines took precautions and actions to prevent Polio. The Philippines Expanded Programme on Immunization, begun in 1976, added polio, measles, and tetanus toxoid for pregnant women, and also estimation of vaccine coverage and monitoring of incidence and mortality of the 6 target diseases. Oral polio vaccine and tetanus were added in 1980 and measles in 1982. Twice yearly mass campaigns were held from 1977-1983, increased to 4 times yearly in 1984. Reported coverage rates for 1986 are BCG-51%, DPT3-32%, OPV3-37% and measles-40%. In children under 5, the incidence of all 6 diseases fell, especially polio, which was down 83% compared to 1980. Moreover, OPV3 has made an important contribution to primary health care, child survival, and preventive health care in the Philippines.

The Philippines suggests that GPEI (Global Polio Eradication Initiative) must be funded by all countries around the world. Besides, developed countries should provide help to underdeveloped and developing countries. In addition to these propositions, affirming the need for a group of scientists that will conduct experiments on Polio. WHO should create a team for spreading awareness of Polio and the vaccine. The Philippines truly believes that awareness is the key to the eradication of Polio. Furthermore, the Philippines defends running up early diagnoses as saving lives and should be obligatory in childhood. Establishing new funds should be supported by governments. Last but not least, check-ups must be done at least 2 times a year for every citizen in each country.