**WHO Executive Board 146th session**

**EB 146/9 Accelerating the elimination of cervical cancer as a global public health problem**

Honourable Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the World Medical Association, which represents 9 million physicians around the world.

We welcome WHO's draft Strategy to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer, particularly through improving vaccination coverage. We would recommend having as a target, not only objectives on girls, but to integrate HPV vaccination for all adolescents.

We call on member states to develop and fund programs that improve access to HPV vaccines for populations that benefit most from preventive measures, including, but not limited to, at-risk patients such as low-income, disadvantaged populations as well as those that are not yet sexually active.

Further, the WMA supports the WHO recommendation to routinely screen young women for cervical cancer in all appropriate health care settings and visits, especially at the primary health care level.

Finally, the WMA emphasizes the need for the integration of cervical cancer prevention methods, early detection and screening, diagnosis, treatment and palliative care into the existing continuing professional development programs and pre-service education of health professionals. Such education will leverage existing support for HPV programs and help in capacity building and quality assurance efforts.

The World Medical Association is committed to working towards eliminating barriers in access to health for all women worldwide.

Thank you.