**Review Meeting of Phase III of the Middle East Polio Outbreak Response,**

**22-23 October 2015, Beirut, Lebanon**

RI Representative address, Dr. Michel P. Jazzar

Beirut, 22 October 2015.

On behalf the Rotary International, the first worldwide “Club service” organization, I am honored and glad to address and to share the crucial WHO planning meeting for Polio phase III, and that for the fourth time, renewing fellowship with all countries’ representatives, GPEI and International Organizations, and keeping RI updated on current situation and strategies to eradicate polio in our area.

I was asking myself why RI has appointed a dentist-implant surgeon and not a pediatrician for such a valuable meeting. It seems that Rotary thinks that I can help “to remove” the bad virus [polio] and “to implant” smile on children mouth.

RI is part of the GPEI and we had organized, in September 6th, the first Polio Conference in Beirut with the participation of the RI PE 2016-17 John Germ, Senior Rotarians, WHO, UNICEF, MOPH, SANOFI PASTEUR, UN-ESCWA, 15 stakeholders’ experts.

During the gala dinner we raised 100.000USD, amount that will be matched 2 times by BMGF which will allow us to vaccinate almost half million of kids.

As initiator, RI supports polio immunization since 1985, through the PolioPlus program. Since 1988 Rotary is part of the GPEI:

1-Financially: One billion and four hundred million of USD has been spent by Rotarians and friends of Rotary. This amount equals almost 11% of the total worldwide cost of polio eradication.

2-Volunteering, advocating, communication through social mobilization outreach campaign under the supervision of the Ministry of public health and local representatives of the GPEI. Almost 95000USD has been spent during the social mobilization in September and get a highly appreciated echo.

Finally Rotarians in 200 countries believe that humanity is one and act to serve above self on global, regional and ground scales. As partner we say that we are this close to ending polio.

 We Thank you chairman for giving us the opportunity to address the honorable attendees. We thank you to keep RI on your regular planning meetings’ list.