



Declaration of Commitment toward the Goal of a Polio Free World

Whereas the elimination of the polio virus is a long held dream of Rotarians worldwide that began more than 30 years ago, and is a public health good that will benefit all children forever;

Whereas Rotary International, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation have joined together with national governments and have successfully reduced cases of polio by more than 99% since 1988 from 350,000 cases reported annually to less than 360 cases in 2014;

Whereas the world has never been in a better position to eradicate polio and we have a narrow window of opportunity to build on this progress and stop polio once and for all;

Whereas the disease has been eliminated from nearly every country and is now endemic only in Nigeria, Pakistan, and Afghanistan and we must give support to all three countries until the job is done;

Whereas polio is a highly infectious disease that can easily spread both locally and globally, thereby threatening children everywhere including countries in the Middle East which have experienced recent outbreaks;

Whereas a vaccine was developed 60 years ago that can safely and effectively protect children from the polio virus;

Whereas the global community has invested more than US\$11 billion in the goal of a polio free world and we must protect this investment;

Whereas, at the May 2013 World Health Assembly, the member states of the World Health Organization adopted the Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan which provides a framework for ensuring we reach our goal of the global certification of polio and requires the urgent support of the international community, including governments and civil society;



Whereas the eradication of polio is an imminently achievable shared victory for all of humanity, the lessons of which will benefit a range of global public health and development initiatives;

We, the undersigned:

- (1) *Declare* our continued commitment to the goal of global polio eradication;
- (2) *Recognize* the generous support provided by the in support of global polio eradication efforts; and
- (3) *Encourage* the continued commitment and funding by the governments of the world until the world is certified free from polio.

RI District 2452 [9 countries]*
DG Mustafa Nasereddin

RI District 2451-Egypt
DG Adel Hafez

RI District 9101 [10 countries]**
DG Marie-Irène Richmond-Ahoua

RI District 3271-Pakistan
DG Jahangir Moghul

RI District 3272-Pakistan
DG Sajid Pervaiz

RI District.....
DG.....

RI President Elect 2016-2017

John F. Germ

*D.2452 – 9 countries: Armenia, Bahrain, Cyprus, Georgia, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Sudan and United Arab Emirates-UAE.

**D.9101 – 10 countries: Burkina-Faso, Cap-Vert, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambie, Guinée, Guinée-Bissau, Libéria, Mali, Sénégal, Sierra-Léone