Statement on agenda item 11.3—Polio transition and post-certification
Delivered at the Seventy-First World Health Assembly

PATH thanks the chair for this opportunity to comment. Soon polio will become a disease of the past and the billions of dollars that have fueled its eradication and supported health systems in some of the world’s most fragile countries will cease to flow.

This action plan is a major step forward and requires strong political commitment to overcome the challenges presented within. We would like to take this opportunity to highlight two areas of emphasis for increased effort moving forward.

First is country and subnational financing. At the present, many of the priority transition countries are not prepared to self-finance—despite bold ambitions—and donors and multilaterals are not adequately engaged in budget planning, particularly around anticipated health workforce gaps at lower levels of the health system. We call on WHO to use its convening authority to ensure that these dialogues and joint planning sessions happen.

Second is strategic coordination. There is a need for continued global attention to ensure the process of transition is carried out sustainably, and involves the right stakeholders at all levels. The Immunization and International Health Regulation constituencies must be brought together to commit to bridging the identified gaps. As WHO plays roles within many of these groups, it can support the convening of the right leadership and sustaining political will.