

SPEECH OF DR AMBROGIO MANENTI, WHO REPRESENTATIVE
NRA ASSESSMENT CEREMONY - 6 MAY 2010-05-05

Her Excellency , Dr. Vahid Dastjerdi, we are please to attend this important events today that show a sign of intense collaboration between the Ministry of Health and Medical Education and the World Health Organization in the Islamic Republic of Iran. As you know this collaboration started in 1997 and we had committed a lot of efforts to provide the required support in the area of immunization and vaccines. In this specific subject, the World Health Organization (WHO) had issued some standards for the strengthening of the medicines regulatory authority including vaccines and biologicals, these international standards had been widely used to assist members states to ensure quality, safety and efficacy of vaccines that are used for national immunization programmes. Moreover, the UN millennium goals that have declared to reduce maternal and infant mortality as well as the vaccine preventable diseases by 2015 , had been critical to use all means and efforts to achieve it. One of these tools that WHO has developed with input of all member states was to strengthen the country medicine regulatory system through establishment of independent and functional National Regulatory Authority (NRA).

As matter of fact, since 1997, WHO has conducted about 22 international visits and provided support for the training of 70 staff and had also been able to fund raise about 2,5 Million USD to support the NRA project. Now that we are 12 years after the first WHO mission that assessed the Iranian regulatory system, we are happy to announce that the National Regulatory Authority has been assessed as functional as per the WHO standards and this pave the way for domestic vaccine manufacturers to be eligible to apply for the WHO vaccine prequalification.

I would like to thanks her Excellency Dr. Vahid Dastjerdi Minister of Health about her commitment since she took her position to make this important event to happen, she has instructed and his advisor, acting minister Dr Nickname to follow up closely and monitor this matters that came true only few months after she took office. I would like to thanks Dr NickName, who has actively coordinated these efforts with all government institutions and WHO HQ. I would like to thanks Dr Ahmad Sheibani and his team who had been since he was appointed very supportive and committed to assist the WHO to achieve our objectives. I would like to thanks Dr Rastegar, Director General of FDCL and Dr. Ahmad Gouya and their respective teams for also having provided a strong and effective contribution to this project.

Finally and not last, I would like to confirm the commitment of the WHO for continuing its engagement in strengthening the national regulatory authorities in Iran and as it will be explained WHO team leader Mr Lahouari Belgharbi of this important mission, there are several recommendations that needs to be closely follow up to sustain and expand the current system and for which WHO will be ready to bring its support or and facilitate the implementation of the institutional development plan.