Agenda Item 9.6 Patient safety contributing to sustainable universal health coverage

Thank you, Regional Director, Hon. Ministers, Dignitaries, Delegates, and non-State Actors. IAPO is an alliance of some 300 global patients’ organizations promoting patient centred healthcare globally. We endorse the report SEA/RC74/12.

We firstly congratulate WHO South East Asia Region Member States for adopting the WHO Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030 at the 74th World Health Assembly (Decision WHA74(13)) and going a lot further by holding a Regional Consultation on Patient Safety on 31 March 2021.

IAPO is hopeful that the WHO Global patient safety action plan 2021-2030 gives WHO SEAR Member States an opportunity to engage patients in the co-production of safe and quality universal health coverage in Southeast Asia by 2030 under the Regional Strategy that must emphasize the role of patients and families in patient safety under the current Strategic Objective 1.

WHO SER healthcare systems remain very unsafe environments during this COVID19 pandemic as healthcare acquired infections not only endangers the patients but also the health workers. This GPSA plan gives the region a robust evidence-based patient centered plan of action and an opportunity to Member States to reduce all avoidable patient harm to zero.

To build back better, we must restore trust and compassion in our healthcare systems by implementing the global patient safety action plan. We take this opportunity and ask Member States to join us on 17th September 2021 to mark the WHO World Patient Safety Day in every regional capital city by lighting your national monuments in orange.

Thank you for your attention