His Excellency, Acting Minister of Health in Universities of Medical Sciences, Dr. Emami Razavi,

Director General of the Department for Population, Family and School Health, Dr. Motlagh,

Senior Experts and PALS instructors from Johns Hopkins University; Dr. Mark Rogers, Dr. Nicole Shilkofsk, Dr. Jennifer Schutte, Dr. Caitlin O’Brien, Dr. Donald Shaffner, Welcome to Iran

Distinguished guests from the paediatric health and medical sector

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning

I am pleased to welcome you all today to the first internationally supported Paediatric Advanced Life Support training course in the Islamic Republic of Iran, conducted by professors of Johns Hopkins University. This workshop is part of the partnership and joint work plan between the Ministry of Health and Medical Education and UNICEF for improving child survival.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has made significant progress in many key areas of the Millennium Development Goals. One of the most significant achievements has been in the area of child survival. Iran has managed to achieve a dramatic reduction in the mortality rate of children under 5 years of age, bringing it down from 57 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 16 per 1,000 in 2015. The same is true about the neonatal mortality rate which fell to 10 per 1,000 live births in 2015.¹

The effort and great work of the Islamic Republic of Iran’s public health system in reducing child mortality rates is indeed admirable. As we know a major part of this success is owed to the great advancement in provision of Primary Health Care Centres in rural areas over the last decades.

Today, however, figures indicate that injuries caused by accidents and unintentional incidents have become the second leading cause of death and disability of children in the country. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to improve national capacities and upgrade the knowledge and skills of paediatricians, emergency medicine experts, and all other relevant experts in life saving and resuscitation of children following injuries.

¹ National Statistics
Hence this training, which is based on an internationally recognized and standard methodology, will offer the **most recent theoretical and hands-on knowledge and skills on Paediatric Advanced Life Support or PALS** to a group of high calibre paediatricians, emergency medicine specialists, anaesthesiologists and other experts who will be certified as PALS providers in the country. To ensure the sustainability of adopted knowledge and skills in the country, the new PALS providers will then cascade the training down to other relevant experts.

Finally, I would like to **warmly welcome once again** and appreciate the course instructors from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine who have generously offered the training free of charge. Special thanks goes to Prof. Mark who coordinated the whole process and Dr. Nicole who technically coordinated the whole program. We thank you very much for that.

I also wish all the participants success in completing this course.

Thank you