World Health Organization (WHO): Seventy-Fourth World Health Assembly (74th WHA)

Agenda Item 13.4 Global Strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation, and intellectual property

Agenda Item 13.6 Substandard and falsified medical products

Agenda Item 13.7 Standardization of medical devices nomenclature

(Word Count: 411)

Chair,

The challenges imposed by Covid-19 have given rise to a need to prioritize research & development, boost innovative thinking and improve research capacity, with added emphasis on the needs of developing nations. It is also integral to ensure that vaccines, medicines, therapeutics, and diagnostics are distributed more equitably, if we want to tackle COVID-19 in a more holistic and inclusive manner. In this regard, there needs to be a higher burden of responsibility on part of developed nations with respect to aiding developing and resource constrained countries.

It is important to ensure fair, affordable, and equitable access to all tools for combating COVID 19 pandemic and, therefore, there is a critical need to build a framework for their allocation.

India believes that technology transfers and voluntary licensing can together catalyze the global vaccination efforts and in absence of agreements on voluntary licensing, the TRIPS waiver should come into effect immediately, as this would go a long way in effective international and national response to COVID 19 pandemic. We should also work to develop a global framework or specialized protocols for benefit sharing for non-influenza pandemics on the lines of PIP Framework consistent with the objectives of the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol.

Chair,

India recognizes the significance of Substandard and falsified medical products and supports the "Member State Mechanism" for control of substandard or unauthorized and unregulated drugs. But while acknowledging the progress made by the MSM, India is against any misuse of this mechanism, which acts as a barrier to international movement or availability of authorized, quality, efficacious and affordable generic drugs due to wrong interpretations or definitions of SF (Substandard and Falsified) beyond the purview of national regulation. India also expects MSM to ensure the availability of affordable and quality generic medical products and trusts it to not create any document or system which can act as a hindrance.

Chair,

India acknowledges the need for standardized nomenclature of medical devices as it will serve as a common language for recording and reporting medical devices across the whole health system at all levels of health care for a whole range of uses. Standardized classification would support patient safety, allow comparisons and measurement of the availability of medical devices as well as assessment of access to devices in the community using health facility assessments tools. It is also essential for defining and naming innovative technologies, classifying the devices for regulatory approval and for streamlining procurement of these products.

Thank you.