

152nd SESSION of the WHO EXECUTIVE BOARD

(Geneva, 30 January- 7th February 2023)

10:00 AM- 5:30 PM (CET)



**Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Government of India**

Agenda 10: Global road map on defeating meningitis by 2030

(word count:338)

Thank you Chair!

India takes note of the report and supports the draft decision.

India recognizes the efforts of WHO in **defining the approach in form of 5 pillars and 19 strategic goals** as stated in '**Global road map for defeating meningitis by 2030**' in order to achieve the three visionary outputs, namely

- (i) eliminate epidemics of bacterial meningitis.**
- (ii) reduce cases of vaccine preventable bacterial meningitis by 50% and deaths by 70% .**
- (iii) reduce disability and improve quality of life after meningitis of any cause.**

India seeks **clarity on how the strategic goals are going to work at a country level** as the **epidemiology of the disease varies** across the globe.

Chair,

With reference to para 9 of the report India suggests **participation of member states in developing comprehensive guidelines** for the diagnosis, treatment and management of meningitis. This step shall contribute in **making health services more people-centered and ensure quality health care service delivery.**

WHO should also work with member states to ensure **adequate vaccine stock for immunization against meningitis** besides **strengthening infrastructure..**

India suggests the need to create a robust monitoring and evaluation mechanism and to share the progress **with respect to each pillar and goal at country level.** This would help **policy makers and public health experts to take informed decisions and design targeted interventions.**

Chair,

India would like to recommend that the **global road map should be prioritized and integrated into country plans, to ensure enhanced advocacy and engagement.**

Advocacy should be undertaken to ensure that there is **high awareness of meningitis,** its impact and to create a **commitment to equal access for meningitis prevention, treatment and support** for all those affected by meningitis.

The successful implementation of the road map will depend on **regional and country engagement and political willingness to defeat meningitis.**

These efforts will require **aligned and effective partner support, including from the private sector and civil society, to bring together all globally available resources (technical, human and financial)** as well as the support of the WHO.

Thank You!