

**152<sup>nd</sup> 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 23.2: Global strategy on traditional medicine**

**(Word Count : 324)**

- India is delivering this statement on behalf of Members States of the South-East Asia region.
- Over the last decade, 170 Member States reported their use of traditional and complementary medicine. The global landscape in traditional and complementary medicine has seen significant developments.
- With the establishment of the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) at Jamnagar, India will harness the potential of traditional medicine from across the world through knowledge sharing, evidence generation and incorporating modern science and technology to improve the health of people and the planet.

**Chair,**

- The steps to be taken by Member States include promoting the safety, quality and affordability of traditional medicine. This can be realized by the inclusion of Traditional Medicine into National List of Essential Medicine and Universal Health Coverage benefit packages, integrating TM into Primary Health Care services, developing national policies, regulatory frameworks

and strategic plans for traditional medicine products, practices and practitioners.

- In the last decade, the traditional and complementary medicine field has increased its focus on an Integrative Approach. Within the traditional medicine field, advances in information technology, high quality research and development have further encouraged application of potential traditional medicine interventions.

**Chair,**

- Taking all this into account we therefore, see the need for WHO to update, strengthen and develop a new Global Strategy on Traditional Medicine, including through consultations with member states and relevant stakeholders, and take into account achievements and challenges of implementing the current strategy. We also request WHO to support Member States in developing and strengthening national TM policies in achieving the SDGs and Health for All.
- South East Asia is grateful to member states who have conveyed their support as co-sponsors of this decision, apart from India and China – namely Bangladesh, Eswatini, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Republic of Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand and Türkiye as well as member States who co-sponsor the decision from the floor, including Colombia and the Maldives.

**Thank You.**