

152nd SESSION of the WHO EXECUTIVE BOARD

(Geneva, 30 January- 7th February 2023)

9:30 AM (CET)



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

Agenda 8: Strengthening rehabilitation in health systems

(word count:360)

Thank you Chair!

India stands aligned with the WHA resolution 71.8 '**Improving access to assistive technology**' & UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development **Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-Being)** and **Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities)**.

Chair!

India suggests development of a comprehensive, sustainable and multi-sectoral approach for improving access to assistive technology, that fulfills the safety and quality standards- at the national and subnational level.

Assistive technologies remain inaccessible due to **lack of awareness on their ability to enhance quality of life** and **communication strategy for the same** needs prioritization. Engagement of **civil-societies and non-state actors is important in the dissemination of such communication.**

In order to strengthen rehabilitation in health systems at primary health care level, India would like to suggest **development of curriculum focused on rehabilitation and including the same in various medical education domains.**

Capacity building of the healthcare workforce and employment opportunities need to be promoted to advance the agenda, including use of digital platforms to augment the reach at user level.

Chair

WHO should support member states to **strengthen the rehabilitative services** including assistance to develop a ***Transdisciplinary Rehabilitative Task Force (TRTF)*** of various ministries and stakeholders and help develop a strategic plan **for implementation.**

Mainstreaming the ***Community-Based Rehabilitation*** (with the *basic* principles of **inclusion, participation, sustainability, empowerment, reducing stigma, and advocacy**) at the primary care level can go a long way in addressing the gap.

Chair!

India would also like to highlight that gender inequity & financial implications remain a challenge and policies at all the levels need to be put in place to address the disparities.

Local manufacturing of such aids should be encouraged in order to boost the economy and also to address the affordability constraint in rural areas and marginalized populations.

Assistive technology and rehabilitation as a whole need to be covered under the umbrella of Universal Health Coverage.

WHO should encourage investment in affordable assistive technology with a universally acceptable design.

Chair!

India is one of the few first countries that ratified the Convention to empower Persons with Disabilities across the globe, to demand their rights and make State, private and civil society agencies accountable for enjoying their rights.

Thank You!