

76th SESSION of the WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

(Geneva, 21 May to 30 May 2023)



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

Committee A

**Agenda 12: Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health
(2016–2030)**

(Word count: 357)

Thank you Chair!

India takes note of the **report on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016–2030)** and **supports the call for a 'Life Course Approach'** in view of the **multi-faceted challenges faced by the world in women's, children's and adolescents' health.**

Chair,

India appreciates WHO for action taken to counter threats to the health and well-being of women, children and adolescents. But it is equally important to assess the data collection methodology and assessment of tools to further improve the outcome.

Chair,

India would like to suggest following action points:

- Member States need to **collaborate and invest in the vaccines required to curtail the morbidity and mortality of vaccine-preventable diseases, especially pneumonia and diarrhea.**
- **Enhanced global collaboration, political will, and leadership** are of utmost importance to **take forward the Life Course approach for Universal Health Coverage.**
- A **country-specific list of Hemoglobin cut-offs** may be provided by WHO to help **define anemia in individuals and in the population.**
- There is a need for **increased awareness and commitment among Member States** to ensure increased **uptake of vaccines for Tetanus and Diphtheria Toxoids vaccine at 10 and 16 years of age.**
- **Member States may focus on preventive and promotive health strategies for children and adolescents to ensure improved health outcomes in the future.**
- **A comprehensive dashboard by WHO** may be of utmost use to the Member States in **understanding the applicable indicators related to Adolescent Health.** Such an initiative may **help Member States align their respective national Adolescent Health programs with the Global Strategy.**

Chair,

Some findings of the progress report present **opportunities for leveraging the gains made collectively by Member States**, such as a **significant decline in birth rates among adolescents in the past decade**.

Similarly, the **decline in new HIV infections in the adolescent and young age group of 15-24 years** gives a **fresh impetus** to the global **goal of ending HIV and other STDs by 2030**.

India is **committed to promote the health and well-being of women, children and adolescents**, and create **opportunities to leverage innovations and new knowledge for effective response**.

Thank you!