

**76<sup>th</sup> SESSION of the WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY**

**(Geneva, 21 May to 30 May 2023)**

**9:30 AM (CET)**



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

**Committee A**

**Agenda 13.3: Substandard and Falsified medical products**

**Agenda 13.4: Strengthening rehabilitation in health systems**

**Agenda 13.5: Draft global strategy on infection prevention and control**

(Word count: 333)

**Thank you Chair!**

India is committed to **supporting and engaging in efforts to prevent the distribution of Substandard and Falsified Medical Products worldwide** to ensure that **Medical Products are of high quality, efficacy, and affordability.**

India **appreciates the work done under the Member State Mechanism, particularly the information reported through Global Surveillance and Monitoring System (GSMS) on substandard and falsified Covid-19 vaccines.** Further, the development of an **e-tool for risk-based post-market surveillance** is also a testament to the **technological prowess of the Mechanism.**

India also reiterates that the **WHO Secretariat should continue its observer-ship** in various related activities of other forums, such as the **Global Steering Committee on Substandard and Falsified Medical Products**. This would **facilitate collaboration between various forums and prevent duplication of efforts**.

**Chair,**

India recommends a global initiative to support member states to develop a ***Transdisciplinary Rehabilitative Task Force (TRTF)*** to strengthen rehabilitative services through respective Ministries and Departments based on strategic frameworks and plans.

India takes note of the report **Global Strategy on infection prevention and Control** and would like to suggest:

- Digital platforms can be leveraged in order to sensitize the general population about modes of infection transmission & its prevention.
- **An overall gap study and documentation in consultation with member states should be made available to further strengthen health systems.**
- **Increased investment for sustainable implementation** of infection prevention and control strategy is a critical element hence WHO should prioritize its own investment on the subject.
- There is an eminent need to **consistently align infection prevention and control practices with other health priorities such as antimicrobial resistance for enhanced patient safety, quality of care, water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH), health emergency response, and other programs such as immunization, HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, hepatitis, and maternal/child health.**

- Effective surveillance on a regular basis of **infection prevention and control practices should be conducted at all levels of the organization basis which strategies should be revamped** by creating a digital platform facilitating robust monitoring and evaluation.

**Thank you!**