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 13.6: Global road map on defeating meningitis by 2030
Agenda 13.7: Standardization of medical devices nomenclature

(Word Count:403)

Chair,

India recognizes the importance of **collaborative efforts between governments, international organizations, civil society, and other stakeholders** in addressing meningitis and suggests that it is also critical to **scale up meningitis vaccine coverage** through a combination of **targeted immunization campaigns and routine immunization programs**.

India recognizes the importance of **research and innovation in addressing meningitis**. There is a need for **greater collaboration among WHO member states** for enhancing **research and development on meningitis**, with a focus on the **development of new vaccines and treatments**. India would like to suggest that the global **road map should be prioritized and integrated into country plans, to ensure enhanced advocacy and engagement**.

Chair,

In the context of agenda 13.7, India would like to suggest that essential medical equipment are devices of relevance which **assist prevention, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliation of the needy** apart from medicines or vaccines vital for their survival.

Chair,

It is a little unsettling that even at this phase in our global collaborations, a standardized classification and nomenclature of medical devices is still a desire. **Consolidated efforts towards the finalization of nomenclature will serve as a common language for recording and reporting medical devices** across the whole health system at all levels of health care for a whole range of uses.

Chair,

The **lack of a nomenclature system has hampered the development of the evidence and web-based health technologies** database to provide guidance on appropriate medical devices.

Standardized classification of medical devices could link to WHO's other international classification systems, such as the International Classification of Health Interventions, the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, and the International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health, to **support organized and standardized information for policymakers and managers.**

Such a **classification would allow measurement of the availability of medical devices as well as assessment** of access to devices in the community using health facility assessment tools ensuring patient safety.

Standardization of nomenclature is **also essential for defining and naming innovative technologies, classifying the devices** for regulatory approval (registration), and for **streamlining global procurement/ exchanges** of these products.

Chair,

India believes that standardized nomenclature of medical devices will serve as a **common language for recording and reporting medical devices across the whole health system, at all levels of health care,** for a whole range of uses.

India welcomes the WHO initiative to go forward with the consultations among member states and related stakeholders.

Thank You!