

**Seventy Sixth Session of the World Health Assembly**

**(Geneva, 21<sup>st</sup> May- 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023)**



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

**Committee A**

**Agenda 14.1: The Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme**

**Agenda 14.2: Implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)**

**Agenda 15.1 - Strengthening WHO Preparedness for and Response to health emergencies**

**Agenda 15.2 - WHO's Work in Health Emergencies**

**Agenda 15.3 - Global Health for Peace Initiative**

(word count:372)

**Thank you Chair!**

The reports by the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee (IOAC) have pointed out the chronic financial and staffing limitations faced by the WHE Programme. The COVID-19 pandemic further highlighted the inadequacy of the WHE Programme in handling a global pandemic while also responding to other emergencies. We reiterate that WHO, as the global leader, needs to **garner all its**

**expertise to make sure that the World Health Emergency Preparedness Response runs at the best of its ability and should be adequately funded.**

**Chair,**

India takes note of the Director General's report on **Strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies** wherein, very rightfully so, **the need for strengthening the global architecture for health emergency preparedness, response, and resilience has been highlighted.**

India also takes note of ten proposals under three crucial pillars of **Governance, Systems, and Financing**, that have been brought out in this report.

In consonance with the principles and proposals brought out in the Director General's report, India under its G20 Presidency has prioritized the health emergency agenda with an aim to converge the efforts going on globally to ensure optimal usage of resources.

India has also prioritized Medical countermeasure platforms and digital health to ensure the availability of these tools to every country especially LMICs and LICs so that every country can address its health challenges in crisis time and also ensure better health service delivery to its citizens in normal times.

**Chair,**

In reference to the issues highlighted in Director General's report, we would like to highlight that there is a **need for the convergence in various efforts directed towards health emergencies prevention, preparedness, and response** as well as

deliberations being held for amendment to International Health Regulations as well as development of the new pandemic accord. This would enable countries to prevent, remain prepared for, and develop resilience to future global public health threats.

**Chair,**

We have learned many lessons during the last pandemic and the world has suffered socially, economically, and in many other aspects. As this health emergency is over now, we should not lose our focus on action and move ahead from principles and take tangible action so we can prepare the world for the next health emergency.

**Thank you!**