

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

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



**Intervention by India**

**Agenda 15.4: Poliomyelitis**

*(Word Count: 330)*

**Thank you Chair!**

India would like to take this opportunity to discuss the issue of poliomyelitis, a crippling disease that has plagued our world for far too long. Despite commendable efforts by the global community, polio remains a significant public health challenge in some parts of the world. India, however, has made remarkable progress in polio eradication in the last two decades.

India was certified polio-free in 2014 and since then, its polio-free status has been maintained. We remain focused on maintaining high population immunity and sensitive surveillance till global polio eradication happens.

To ensure the proper mobilization of the required financial resources to achieve the global goal of polio eradication, India believes that there is a need to develop a comprehensive funding plan outlining the financial resources including the costs of vaccines, surveillance, and operations. There is also a need to engage with key stakeholders, like governments, donors, and private sector organizations including

leveraging existing global health funding mechanisms to mobilize additional resources.

**Chair,**

India recognizes the global efforts of the World Health Organization and its partners towards polio eradication. We believe that there is a need to strengthen the global polio eradication program by focusing on high-risk areas and populations, including conflict-affected areas, migrant populations, and areas with poor sanitation. We also suggest that the global community should leverage technology and innovation to improve the surveillance system, ensure vaccine accessibility & encourage community participation.

We also believe that the renewed polio transition vision should focus on building strong and sustainable routine immunization systems, strengthening surveillance for Vaccine-Preventable Diseases, engaging with national governments and communities, and ensuring all children receive a full complement of doses of both types of polio vaccines.

India would like to reiterate its commitment to the global polio eradication program. We believe that through partnerships & community engagement, we can achieve the goal of a polio-free world. We call upon all the member states to join hands and work towards this noble cause.

**Thank you!**