

Seventy Sixth Session of the World Health Assembly

Geneva, 21st- 30th May 2023



Intervention by India

Committee B

Agenda 20.1: Report of the External Auditor

Agenda 20.2: Report of the Internal Auditor

(Word Count: 351)

Thank you, Chair!

India acknowledges WHO's efforts to replace the legacy IT application with the new Business Management System (BMS). However, as revealed in the report pending development of the **to-be process documentation**, essential for tracking and monitoring the implementation status of different modules, India urges WHO to **expedite the roll-out and implementation of the system**.

Further, the audit assessment identified **issues pertaining to objectivity in the vendor selection process**, risking the best value for money. India suggests that WHO should **bolster its evaluation protocols and consultancy contracting procedures** aligning with the current procurement guidelines.

On the issue of sub-optimal inventory management resulting in the **wastage of medical and humanitarian supplies** worth US\$ 3.8 million in 2022 due to expiration, we strongly

recommend the WHO to **streamline the inventory management mechanisms** and **establish checks for maintaining inventory of supplies with adequate shelf life.**

Chair,

The WHO must **embrace the recommendations of the External Auditor** to enhance its financial, administrative, and management processes in overall functioning **demonstrating a commitment to transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship.**

India recommends WHO to **prioritize the regular participation of Member States** in the process of audit (both pre-and post-audit) for the creation of an authentic audit report.

Based on the internal report, India concurs that the WHO should focus on the following areas-

- **Evaluate and renew** the sustainability of WHO-led projects,
- **Evaluate and renew cooperation strategies,**
- **strengthen resource mobilization and prioritize resource allocation,**
- **streamlining the supply chain, vendor management, and procurement processes**

ensuring comprehensive system design capable of confirming the status of delivery of goods and demonstrate the **best value for money and an effective use of resources.**

We strongly condemn the increase in reports of sexual harassment received in 2022, as compared to 2021 from 13 to 46, we recommend WHO to **investigate these instances of sexual harassment** providing **justification regarding the increase in the cases of sexual harassment.**

Chair,

The WHO must **continue working towards incorporating the recommendations** of Auditors to address the existing systemic shortcomings and India is willing to extend the required support for the same.

Thank you Chair!