

Seventy-Sixth Session of the World Health Assembly
(Geneva, 21st May- 30th May 2023)



Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Government of India

Committee B

Agenda 27.1- Progress Report

(G): The World Together: Establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating body to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness, and Response

(H): Smallpox eradication: the destruction of variola virus stocks (resolution WHA60.1 (2007))

(word count:294)

India recognizes the constructive engagement of Member States and congratulates the Chair & the Vice-Chairs of the Working Group & the Secretariat for their work to together lay out the progress on the conceptual Zero draft.

India would like to propose an upgradation of the Health emergency measures under the International Health Regulations (IHR) that are pertinent to the pandemic. This recommendation is aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the new instrument for pandemic prevention, preparedness, response, and health systems' recovery, by elevating the health emergency measures to a higher level.

Chair,

India would like to suggest INB and WGIHR should collaborate and seek support from the Secretariat to facilitate consultation and coordination between the two negotiation processes. The objective is to guide discussions on the WHO CA+ in the INB and the IHR amendments, in order to ensure that the two instruments complement each other and work together effectively. This coordinated approach will enhance the modus operandi and effectiveness of both instruments in the future.

The two Bureaus' guidance should focus on the modalities and process of the two work streams towards the harmonization of their contents and scopes in line with the deliberations by the Member State.

Chair,

While the discussions in the two work streams may proceed with a time gap, **there should be concerted efforts to jointly produce an impactful outcome together in order to ensure pandemic prevention, preparedness, response, and health systems recovery.**

India would also like the bureau and the secretariat to consider and to have more clarity about hybrid modalities to ensure inclusiveness.

Lastly, as already mentioned during the working group meeting, India feels that there is a need for the INB Bureau to closely coordinate with the WGIHR bureau to see potential overlapping arrangements.

Thank you!