

76th SESSION of the World Health Assembly

(21st May - 30th May 2023)



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

Agenda: 27. 1- Progress Report

(I)- The role of the health sector in the strategic approach to international chemicals management towards the 2020 goal and beyond (decision wha74(25) (2021))

(J) WHO global strategy on health, environment and climate change: the transformation needed to improve lives and well-being sustainably through healthy environments (decision WHA74(24) (2021))

(K)- Decade of Healthy Ageing 2020–2030 (decision WHA73(12) (2020))

(L): Water, sanitation and hygiene in health care facilities (resolution WHA72.7 (2019))

(M): Prevention of deafness and hearing loss (resolution WHA70.13 (2017) and decision WHA74(17) (2021))

(N): Plan of action on climate change and health in small island developing State

(word count: 361)

Chair,

India agrees that environmental factors such as air pollution, unsafe water, and exposure to hazardous chemicals and waste can have significant negative impacts on human health including increased incidence of infectious diseases, malnutrition, and mental health problems.

Chair,

India has taken steps to address the impact of climate change on human health through the implementation of the National **Programme on Climate Change and Human Health (NPCCHH)**.

India suggests **fostering, multi-sectoral partnerships** to identify and address health risks & environmental challenges more effectively. India believes **that education and public awareness campaigns can promote behavior change**, such as reducing *energy consumption, and using public transport to reduce environmental and climate change-related risks*. Hence such campaigns should be taken up by member states and the **impactful ones must be shared for replication at the regional level**.

Chair,

WHO in its report highlighted that in 2021, **only 32% of healthcare facilities had access to fundamental hygiene services**. India believes that this lack of basic hygiene services in the majority of healthcare facilities is a major concern, as it increases the risk of spreading infections and diseases, putting both patients and healthcare workers at risk.

India would like to highlight that there is a **need for improved hygiene standards and resources in healthcare facilities to ensure that patients receive safe and effective care**.

Chair,

The WHO Global Report on Health Care Waste in the Context of COVID-19 highlighted the importance of a roadmap for improving the management of

healthcare waste during the pandemic. However, there is still room for improvement.

Cross-border collaboration should also be strengthened to facilitate the sharing of knowledge, expertise, and resources related to healthcare waste management, particularly in vulnerable settings. India would like to suggest that there is a need to build capacity of the healthcare workers to ensure the long-term sustainability and resilience of health facilities.

Chair,

India considers **The WASH FIT as a significant tool for enhancing WASH in healthcare facilities and advancing the health and welfare of patients and healthcare personnel.** India would like to recommend monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the tool on regular bases to assess its impact and identify areas for improvement.

Thank you!