

Seventy Sixth Session of the World Health Assembly

Geneva, 21st - 30th May 2023



Intervention by India

Agenda 27.1- Progress Report

(O): Global Strategy on Digital Health

(P): Eleventh revision of the International Classification of Diseases (resolution WHA 72.15 (2019))

(Word Count: 352)

Thank you, Chair

India acknowledges and appreciates the **WHO's efforts to accelerate the development and adoption of citizen-centric digital health solutions** across the world through the **Global Strategy on Digital Health**. It puts an impetus on making healthcare more affordable, accessible, and equitable for all duly **utilizing scalable technological tools and digital solutions**.

The **key objectives of the strategy** include **promotion of global collaboration and knowledge transfers** and **advancing the implementation of national digital health strategies**. Aligned with these objectives India is espousing the cause of Digital Health under its ongoing G-20 Presidency. Through formation of **Global Initiative on Digital Health** housed at **World Health Organization Headquarters**, we aim to create an **institutional framework** for supporting implementation of technology across the nations and establish **convergence mechanisms** for all digital initiatives across the world.

The initiative, **aligned with the Global Strategy on Digital Health**, aims to facilitate coordination among interested parties to **advance WHO's priorities on the agenda** and ensure **compliance with WHO's norms and standards**.

Chair,

While the digital health agenda is being ardently promoted and adopted in the global arena today, there exists an **immense disparity in access to technological interventions** which can deepen and **intensify the existing inequity in health system capacities**. In order to prevent the same, India is promoting **universalization and democratization of digital health solutions through Digital Public Goods** under the Global Initiative of Digital Health. Instead of reinventing the wheel, this initiative, with a **network-of-network approach**, will be crucial in **bridging the global digital divide** and enable **equitable access to technological interventions** by nations across the world, especially **low-and-middle-income countries**.

To bring this cause to fruition, under India's G-20 Presidency, a **fund of US\$200 million** has been proposed and we look forward to the support of the present participants for the same.

Chair,

Digital health is revolutionizing healthcare worldwide, but without **global collaboration**, progress will be limited. Thus, I call upon all **nations to unite, share resources, and work together** towards this common goal because only then can we truly **harness the power of technology and create a healthier, more equitable world for all**.

Thank you!