Agenda Item 5.7 : Access to medicines and vaccines

Statement by India

Thank you Chair

India strongly believes that ensuring availability, accessibility, affordability and acceptability of medicines and vaccines in the low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) is the most topical and relevant issue in the Global Health dialogue.

Towards this India has strongly supported the recommendations of the UN High Level Panel report and taken affirmative action by holding the First and Second World Conferences on Access to Medical products in the past two years continuously in New Delhi.

India proposes to organize the third edition of conference on Access to Medical Products later this year.

Chair,

Though the road map is comprehensive & holistic, there are no budget estimates associated with deliverables & timelines. Moreover, a breakdown of what will be done at the head quarter, the regional offices & country offices is missing. India also requests the WHO to come up with a clear road map in sync with the recommendations of the UNSG's HLP Report particularly with respect to the use of TRIPS flexibilities.

Chair,
Global shortage and access are two separate issues and must be treated separately. Merging them together dilutes the focus on addressing the issue of access to medicine.

Equitable access to medicines is denied due to market distortions and price barriers to procurement which may include Intellectual Property provisions, extremely tight regulatory standards and monopolies.

Secretariat's report needs to be based on a broader view of the cause of shortages rather than focusing solely on supply chain malfunctions.

Chair

Health being a merit good, greater global cooperation is needed to evolve a mechanism that delinks the cost of R&D from end prices to promote access to good health for all.

We propose that WHO should set up a special fund to advance R&D on medicines and vaccines, on diseases mainly affecting the low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

Due importance needs to be given to promote the traditional forms of medicine and vaccination for their enhanced acceptability.

Thank You.