

152nd SESSION of the WHO EXECUTIVE BOARD

(Geneva, 30 January- 7th February 2023)

9:30 AM (CET)



सत्यमेव जयते

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

Agenda 12.1: Strengthening the global architecture for health emergency preparedness, response, and resilience- Ten proposals to build a safer world together

(Word count: 359)

Chair,

COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the fault lines in the global health architecture and the need for a stronger, inclusive, resilient, and fit-for-purpose health emergency management architecture.

Discussions are happening in multiple forums, be it Pandemic Fund, ACT-A, and even multiple initiatives within WHO- health emergency committees, IHR reforms, and the ongoing discussions under INB.

A new challenge exists in terms of fragmentation of efforts.

Director General 10-point proposal has the potential to bring convergence and interweave these efforts in an integrated whole.

It is critical that a mapping of all efforts in HEPR is taken up, so as to harmonize them and avoid duplication.

The 10-point proposal has also identified rapid and equitable access to safe medical countermeasures as a critical area for intervention.

Chair,

India has proposed both convergence in global health emergency architecture and creation of R & D, Manufacturing networks for vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics with specific focus on LMICs as a priority in India's G20 Presidency.

Globally distributed R&D networks can support wider and distributed manufacturing but may not lead to equitable distribution, due to lack of adequate resources with all countries and hence the need for a Global Medical Countermeasures Coordination Platform, which may be modeled based on the learnings of ACT-A and its Evaluation.

These should take into account the existing initiatives by WHO and other relevant International Organisations besides creating new partnerships which are not bureaucracy heavy and are agile in nature.

Chair,

World has to be prepared to manage challenges posed by new pathogens of pandemic potential or Disease X, and be ready with a harmonized approach to deal with it and with surge capacities for MCMs at global level, else millions of additional lives will be at stake, something which we can collectively ill afford.

Chair,

Leadership of WHO and deliberations with member states as well as in other multilateral forums such as G7, G20, AU, EU and other stakeholders to bring everyone on board, for being ready to manage any future health challenge.

India looks forward to providing all support to WHO and member states in this endeavor.

Thank you!