

152nd SESSION of the WHO EXECUTIVE BOARD

(Geneva, 30 January- 7th February 2023)

9:30 AM (CET)



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

Agenda 16: Social determinants of Health

(word count: 272)

Thank you Chair,

India welcomes and is a co-sponsor to the resolution proposed by Bangladesh and Ireland on accelerated action on global drug prevention.

The present pandemic has exacerbated existing inequities and had a detrimental impact on **the social determinants of health**. Social determinants of Health are a multifaceted public health issue, requiring **collaboration with multiple sectors and organizations**.

Health equity can only be achieved by avoiding a fragmented approach and through harmonizing the ongoing efforts of multiple stakeholders.

Chair,

WHO and Member states need to work in collaboration **to ensure access to quality healthcare, education, implement policies to ensure economic stability and food**

security for the vulnerable population. Promoting health literacy is equally important to ensure an individual's own proactive and right outlook towards health.

Strengthening primary healthcare services at the cutting edge level is an important element of health equity.

Chair,

The report has highlighted the **gaps between rural health vis a vis urban health systems**. Use of digital health technologies, innovation and use of community level health workers to aid health service delivery are critical tools to address these barriers.

There is a need to encourage **Teleconsultation, Teleradiology, Technology driven Capacity Building Platforms, use of cutting edge digital tools like IoT devices, Artificial Intelligence, and in effect creation of longitudinal electronic health records to facilitate continuity of care while ensuring privacy and confidentiality of patient's data.**

Chair,

Monitoring of social determinants of health, duly taking country's context into account is important.

WHO should work with member states to **develop data sets and key indicators** which can be used for **monitoring, aid policy and to prioritize action.**

Thank You.