

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 17: Highest attainable standard of people with disabilities

(word count:352)

Thank you Chair!

India strongly supports WHO'S efforts towards creating an **enabling environment for people living with disabilities to attain the highest standards of health service delivery.**

India suggests that an evidence-driven, systemic **and sustainable change in the health sector- integrating disability health care at primary health level is the key.**

There is a need to remove **physical, attitudinal, social, structural, and financial barriers towards quality standards of care for people with disabilities to create an inclusive health sector.**

The unmet health needs of People with disabilities who are 16 % of the global population must be met.

Investment in assistive technologies for disabled persons and promotion of local manufacturing of the same would promote affordability and accessibility.

Chair,

There is a **need for tailored treatment plans for different types of disabilities that are easy to comprehend and follow, with concomitant** capacity building of the health workforce such that no one is left behind.

We also need to work on the challenges posed by the stigma, promote health seeking behavior besides creating a **discrimination free environment**. This should be supported by **a robust reporting and grievance redressal mechanism**.

Chair,

Digital technologies can be leveraged as a cost effective tool to augment the reach to disabled population. Social media based awareness and anti-stigma campaigns are important.

Campaigns aimed at **engaging the public through media channels, calls to action, and active participation in mass social events** needs to be undertaken.

Chair,

Role of civil societies and non-state actors is germane in **mobilization of community** besides approaches such a 'coalition of **persons with disability**' at **national, regional and global level may be promoted**.

Awareness around each disability about their rights and their practice should be supported **besides creating gainful employment opportunities for such people for their integration in the society**.

India proposes that WHO should support member states for :

- Promotion of research in areas of disability prevention and rehabilitation
- Training in Community awareness programmes

- Knowledge exchange programme in areas of medical problems of people with disability,
- Prevention of disability and rehabilitation of persons with disability.

Thank You!