

World Health Organisation (WHO): Seventy-Third World Health Assembly (73rd WHA)

Agenda Item 11.3 Global Vaccine Action Plan



Thank you, Chair

India welcomes the Agenda of Draft Immunization Vision and Strategy: Immunization Agenda 2030(1). We firmly believe in, and envision “a world where everyone, everywhere, at every age fully benefits from vaccines for good health and well-being”, and will extend our support in accelerating progress and ensuring smooth transition from the Global Vaccine Action Plan which is coming to an end in 2020. India also promotes the steady implementation of the draft roadmap based on “Towards a world free of meningitis”.

Chair,

Improving the health status of children is among the top priorities of Government of India. India is already polio free and has also worked towards eliminating maternal & neonatal tetanus in May 2015. To ensure equitable access of vaccines for all, government is investing lot of resources in immunization.

Moreover, in the last decade, Government of India has also introduced six new vaccines - Tetanus Diphtheria (Td), Inactivated Poliovirus Vaccine (IPV), Measles Rubella vaccine (MR) and Rotavirus vaccine at the national level and; Japanese encephalitis vaccine for adults, and Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) at the sub-national level. We are now providing protection against 12 deadly vaccine preventable diseases through our Universal Immunization Programme (UIP). Through our UIP or national immunization programme, we are providing vaccination free of cost against vaccine preventable diseases such as diphtheria,

tetanus, polio, measles, childhood tuberculosis, hepatitis B, meningitis and pneumonia, and many more diseases.

In underserved, vulnerable, resistant and inaccessible populations, immunization is being strengthened through Mission Indradhanush. Under various phases of Mission Indradhanush, nearly 37.6 million children and 9.4 million pregnant women have been vaccinated during 2014 to 2020. This will further help us in elimination of Measles and Rubella and will also protect our investment on Polio.

Chair,

India strongly believes that it is our collective responsibility to ensure equitable, inclusive and affordable access to the essential medicines, vaccines and technology transfer, with special consideration to the needs of developing nations, so that the benefits of all of our hard work during this Pandemic, percolates to every corner of our respective nations.

Thank you.