

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

Agenda 11.4: Accelerating the elimination of cervical cancer as a global public health problem



Thank you Chair,

Today, cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer among women, registering 570,000 new cases and 311,000 deaths globally in 2018. The burden of cervical cancer lies heavily on across the globe, with several countries still being underequipped to effectively combat the issues caused by the disease. Due to the lack of a robust initiative to combat the condition internationally, India stands in full support of the appeals to declare the elimination of cervical cancer as a global public health problem. WHO has already drafted guidelines to optimize our efforts to eliminate cervical cancer, and India hopes that Member States will push their countries to follow through on these guidelines. Some measures for decreasing the burden of cervical cancer on citizens and public health systems may be vaccination against human papillomavirus, screening and treatment of pre-cancer conditions, early detection

and prompt treatment of early invasive cancers, and provision of palliative care. India is willing to take all required measures to take steps to combat the mortality and morbidity from cervical cancer, the stigma experienced by women and families, and the disparity in the coverage of health services aimed at treating cervical cancer.

Chair,

We are all aware of the 90-70-90 targets (a triple intervention by WHO) for 2030. That is, 90% of girls fully vaccinated with a human papillomavirus vaccine by 15 years of age; 70% of women screened using a high-performance test by 35 and 45 years of age; 90% of women identified with cervical disease are treated. Achieving these goals will be crucial to India in the coming years.

Chair,

India is willing to develop a robust, holistic health systems approach for fighting cervical cancer in India by integrating vaccination programs, intensifying screening and treatment programs, adolescent health services, and HIV and reproductive health services. However, India believes that one of the optimal ways to generate our response would be through a fruitful exchange of knowledge with other countries; the delegation of India urges WHO to classify cervical cancer as a public health problem so India and other Member Nations can have a forum to discuss, debate, and formulate their responses in a structured, productive manner.

Thank you! **(404 words)**