

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

Agenda 15.1: Decade of Healthy Ageing



Thank you, Chair.

India is aware of the issues and challenges of increasing number of geriatric population and is taking all necessary measures to address it. We are implementing a National Programme for Health Care of Elderly throughout the country which is aimed at delivering comprehensive, accessible, affordable, high-quality, long-term and dedicated care services to the ageing population. Facilities for tertiary care services for elderly are also being provided through 19 Regional Geriatric Centres and at the apex level, two National Centres for Ageing are being set up.

Chair,

Considering the higher risks faced by elderly during the outbreak of pandemics such as COVID-19, programmatic interventions have been done to address their concerns by recognizing them as vulnerable population category, issuing advisories, raising awareness of their special needs, encouraging State Governments to develop need-based models for delivery of medications and home-based care to the elderly.

We firmly believe that health promotion, including integrated health care, lifestyle modification, long-term care and age-friendly environments are critical to address the challenge of healthy ageing. Steps have therefore been taken to promote physical activities, healthy eating, and develop human resources through

short- and long-term trainings. Steps have also been taken to transform understanding of ageing and health through longitudinal study on ageing in India.

Chair,

India is committed to the cause of healthy ageing and fully appreciates and acknowledges the global efforts towards the decade of healthy ageing 2020-2030. Concerted efforts shall be undertaken on mainstreaming issues related to elderly and to deliberate upon ways to ensure better and effective delivery of services, making full use of convergence mechanisms. Initiatives shall also be undertaken to bring together governments, civil society, international agencies, professionals, academia, the media, and the private sector for collaborative action to improve the lives of older people, their families, and the communities in which they live.

Ageing population is a global phenomenon and therefore there is a need for a greater interaction and sharing of experiences and knowledge among the countries and other stakeholders. Global efforts to address the challenge need to be driven by strong and strategic leadership, cost effective interventions and multi-sectoral approach.

Thank you.