

**SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
(RESUMED SESSION-VIRTUAL)
9 – 14 NOVEMBER 2020**

Agenda Item No. : 23

**Title : Progress reports: Report by Director
General**

**E. Smallpox eradication: destruction of
variola virus stocks**

Ref. Document : A73/32

Intervention Note :

Dear Chair,

Malaysia takes note of the progress report on development of antiviral agents for smallpox, development of vaccinia-based vaccines against smallpox, as well as development of diagnostic technologies and assays for orthopoxviruses.

While we welcome advances on these fields for global preparedness, it is of utmost importance that all parties involved maintain biosafety and biosecurity at their highest level. Malaysia concurs that building national laboratory capacity for the rapid confirmation of monkeypox and smallpox is crucial for country preparedness. Thank you.