

**76<sup>th</sup> SESSION of the World Health Assembly**

**(Geneva, 21 May to 30 May 2023)**



**Ministry of Health & Family Welfare  
Government of India**

**Agenda 16.1: Well-Being and Health Promotion**

**Agenda 16.2: Ending violence against children through health systems strengthening and multisectoral approaches**

**Agenda 16.3: Social Determinants of Health**

**Agenda 16.5: United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025)**

(Word count: 430)

**Thank you Chair!**

India supports WHO's initiatives for well-being and health promotion. India suggests **more inclusive care modes to include mental health as a critical component of overall health and well-being.**

It will be prudent to also **propose coordinated measures for capacity building to ensure adequate and inclusive wellness services to all those in need, promotion of technology in provision of health and care services, de-stigmatization of sensitive health issues and generating health awareness as a habit among the masses.**

India has **reoriented its primary health care as a resilient foundation for universal health coverage through Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centers (AB-HWC)** by encouraging community members to engage in **wellness activities**.

**Chair,**

With respect to agenda 16.2,

India would like to suggest that we need to adopt **a multi-sectoral framework of mutually reinforcing interventions to prevent and mitigate child violence. Our work should focus on building health systems capacities** at all levels.

India has a comprehensive policy and legal framework addressing rights and protection for children, providing opportunities to ensure that all children have equal access to quality protection services. The core child protection legislation for children is enshrined in four main laws:

- The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act (2000, amended in 2015)
- The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (2006)
- The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (2012)
- The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act (1986, amended in 2016)

**Chair,**

The strategies to address violence against children should be holistic including:

- Strict Implementation and enforcement of laws ensuring service provision
- Community Awareness on violence against children
- Ensuring Safe environments for children in school and public spaces

- Regular Parental and caregiver support by providing education and updated support material

**Chair,**

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the significant impact of social determinants of health on health outcomes. The pandemic has also brought to the forefront issues such as access to healthcare, education, food security, and housing that contribute to health inequities. The response to the pandemic needs to take into account these social determinants of health and address the underlying structural issues that perpetuate health inequalities. **Efforts to improve health equity must go beyond the immediate crisis response and involve long-term policies and investments in social determinants of health.**

**Chair,**

**India would also like to recommend that digital health solutions and technology should be used to reduce disparities between the health systems in rural and urban areas.** The use of teleconsultation, tele radiology and capacity-building platforms driven by technology, cutting-edge digital tools and artificial intelligence can be instrumental in overcoming such barriers.

**Thank you!**