77th session of the World Health Assembly
Statement by Bangladesh

13.4: Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response

Thank you, Mr. president.

Distinguished delegations, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

2. At the outset, we would like to thank the Co-Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body Madam Precious for the presentation on the reasons behind the conception of the treaty and the development thereof. During the negotiation, DG Dr. Tedros very often said, we should complete the negotiation prior to the pain of the COVID-19 pandemic fades away.

3. Esteemed Bureau and the Co-Chairs of the INB, we have made substantive progress in the negotiation. At the same time, the works lying ahead are no less.

4. The pandemic agreement was conceived in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic which was centred around its disproportionate impact on the societies across the continents. We would like to recall that during the second special session of the health assembly held in 2021, we all agreed to put equity, solidarity and inclusivity at the centre of the agreement. Hence, we have to be bold and courageous in finalizing the text so that equity related provisions are operationalized.

5. Dear august gathering, in provisions related to research and development, diversification of production facilities, access to technology and know-how, and financing, requisite components on equity need to be well articulated in a balanced manner. Political commitment would be exigent for a paradigm shift in our overall approach to the agreement to be finalized.

6. We are aware that the INB did not reach consensus on the text. In going forward, we would like to shed light on the white paper and its proposal.

6.1 First, Bangladesh supports formation of a single drafting group for both pandemic instrument and amendment of IHR (2005) for completing the remaining task. Any parallel session would be devoid of inclusivity.
6.2 Second, about beginning the work on 29 May, we suggest to continue the work of the amendment of the IHR during the current assembly aiming to conclude the negotiation during the current health assembly.

6.3 Third, we all are well aware of the volume of task to be completed to make the pandemic accord ready for adoption. Towards that, more time would be needed as a pragmatic approach.

I thank you, Mr. President.

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