

78th Session of World Health Assembly 2025

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

Intervention by India

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Merged Agenda Items 16.1, 16.3, 16.4, 17.1, 17.4

16.1: Health emergency preparedness and response - Strengthening the global architecture for health emergency prevention, preparedness, response and resilience.

16.3: Implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)

16.4: The Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme

17.1: WHO's work in health emergencies

17.4: Universal Health and Preparedness Review

Thank you, Chair!

India has gone through reports on the matters of Health Emergency Preparedness and Response, IHR, and UHPR. As highlighted in the reports, we have taken note of the urgent need for enhanced international cooperation and sustainable financing to strengthen health systems to ensure effective responses to future health emergencies. We appreciate WHO's role in managing 51

graded emergencies across 89 countries in 2024 and recognize the growing complexity of health crises, including those driven by climate change, food insecurity, and zoonoses.

Chair!

India is assessing the national readiness for the implementation of International Health Regulations (2005), as adopted by the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly.

We welcome WHO's efforts in developing country case studies to guide global scaling of collaborative surveillance and commend the growing role of the Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources (EIOS) initiative. While India supports several initiatives undertaken by WHO on capacity building, however, we feel that such capacity building initiatives should adopt a bottom-up approach and should be backed by adequate logistical, technical, and financial support to ensure their sustainability.

Chair!

To strengthen preparedness, investments in core HEPR capabilities such as strong collaborative surveillance backed by digital platforms, technology transfer and regional manufacturing hubs, and emergency coordination are essential. Platforms like e-GISRS and BioHub require enhanced coordination and cooperation among the member states for fulfilling its mandate by ensuring equitable access to benefits, particularly to LMICs and MICs in a transparent manner.

India believes that one of the major challenges to HEPR is the competition for sustainable financing. WHO must prioritize its interventions based on data, risk, and regional vulnerabilities to ensure efficient use of resources.

Finally, we reiterate the Executive Board's request for the WHO Secretariat to systematically document national experiences and best practices under UHPR to promote peer learning, ensuring the process remains voluntary and complementary to existing mechanisms.

Thank you Chair!

