

79th Session of World Health Assembly

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

Intervention by India (2 minute)

Agenda item 13.3:- Open ended IGWG on WHO Pandemic Agreement

(Word Count: - 239 words)

Thank you, Chair.

India reaffirms its commitment to the shared objective of establishing a **Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing (PABS) system that is practical, equitable, transparent and capable of delivering tangible public health benefits**. We appreciate the constructive engagement of Member States and the secretariat to identify balanced and workable approaches through the ongoing negotiations.

Chair,

As PABS constitutes a central pillar of the Pandemic Agreement, it is essential that the framework be underpinned by **standardized and legally binding contracts governing access to pathogens with pandemic potential and**

associated pathogen sequence information, as well as the equitable sharing of benefits arising therefrom.

India also underscores the importance of establishing **robust traceability mechanisms for both pathogen materials and pathogen sequence information, including through the use of advanced digital technologies.**

Chair,

Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing must be meaningful, predictable and outcome-oriented. This should include **timely and equitable access to vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics, supported by technology transfer, capacity building and measures aimed at strengthening local and regional manufacturing capacities**, particularly in developing countries.

Given the far-reaching and long-term implications of the PABS system **for global health governance, preparedness and equity**, negotiations must proceed in a careful, inclusive and balanced manner. The concerns and priorities of developing countries must be adequately reflected in the outcome.

India remains committed to achieve a consensus-based outcome that advances equity, solidarity and global health security, while strengthening collective preparedness and response capacities for future pandemics.

Thank You