

79th Session of World Health Assembly

18th to 23rd May 2026, Geneva



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

Intervention by India (2 minute)

Agenda item 14.1 - WHO's work in health emergencies

Agenda 14.2 - Strengthening the evidence base for public health and social measures

(Word Count:- 256)

Thank you, Chair.

India welcomes the Director-General's reports on **"WHO's Work in Health Emergencies"** and on **"Strengthening the Evidence Base for Public Health and Social Measures,"** which underscore WHO's continued efforts to strengthen global preparedness and response capacities. The central role played by communities in prevention, preparedness and mitigation of public health emergencies further highlights the importance of evidence-based public health governance in an increasingly complex global health landscape.

Chair,

India notes with concern that **climate-related events, humanitarian crises and emerging infectious diseases** are increasingly contributing to both acute and

protracted health emergencies. This underscores the urgent need for **stronger global solidarity, resilient health systems and equitable access to vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other health technologies**, particularly for developing countries. In this context, India firmly believes that global health security must be advanced through collaborative, inclusive, multilateral and science-based approaches.

India continues to contribute to global health resilience through the **supply of affordable vaccines, medicines and diagnostics**, while also leveraging digital innovations.

India also appreciates WHO's initiative in convening **global technical consultations on Public Health and Social Measures** to advance research in this domain. These measures often serve as the first line of defence in responding to **novel diseases and emerging health threats**. Their effectiveness depends significantly on community participation and public trust. Such participation can only be ensured when these measures are **evidence-based, culturally sensitive, context-specific and scientifically sound**.

Chair,

India reiterates its support for a stronger, adequately resourced and responsive WHO at the centre of global health emergency preparedness, coordination and response.

Thank you.