

79th Session of World Health Assembly 2026

18th – 23rd May 2026, Geneva



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

Intervention by India (2 minutes)

ITEM 15.1: Strengthening Rehabilitation in Health Systems

ITEM 15.3: The Health of Indigenous People

ITEM 15.4: Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition

(Word count: 223)

Thank You, Chair

The integration of rehabilitation into public health systems is indispensable for achieving universal health coverage and strengthening resilient health systems. Rehabilitation services must be embedded across all levels of care - primary, secondary, tertiary and incorporated into emergency preparedness and response frameworks.

It is equally important to ensure that rehabilitation is reflected in national health policies, with due emphasis on social participation, equity, and gender equality.

Persistent barriers linked to geography, income, gender, and social vulnerability must be addressed to guarantee equitable access for all.

Chair,

India believes that Indigenous Peoples have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. Their meaningful participation in health-related decision-making through their representatives must be ensured.

Furthermore, promoting intercultural and holistic approaches, along with recognizing Indigenous knowledge systems and traditional medicine, is vital for advancing universal health coverage.

Chair,

Under the National Health Mission, India has adopted a life-cycle approach through the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent Health and Nutrition strategy, ensuring multiple contact opportunities with beneficiaries. Initiatives such as the **Mother's Absolute Affection** programme promote breastfeeding, focusing on the first 1,000 days, while **Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres** provide care for children with acute malnutrition.

In addition, Community-based outreach programmes are being implemented to build an enabling environment for infant and young child feeding practices.

Thank You!