

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)

Agenda Item 18.11: Prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment

Agenda Item 18.12: Governance reform

(Word Count 268)

Thank you Chair,

India takes note of the report on the Prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment. We explicitly condemn all forms of exploitation and abuse, especially targeting marginalized and vulnerable populations.

We encourage and support the Secretariat to reinforce zero-tolerance policies and foster a zero-tolerance culture towards sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment, particularly in humanitarian settings.

Chair,

To strengthen women's safety, India has undertaken several initiatives, such as 1025 One Stop Centres (OSCs) to provide integrated support, including medical,

legal, and psycho-social aid, to violence- and distress-affected women; a 24-hour Women Helpline integrated with Emergency Response Support System.

To strengthen workplace safety and ensure effective implementation of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace, India launched the Sexual Harassment Electronic Box (SHe-Box) portal. This portal provides a single-window, secure and confidential platform for women across organized and unorganized sectors, to register complaints related to workplace sexual harassment.

Chair

India welcomes the Secretariat's implementation plan emphasizing that governance reform should enhance the efficiency and transparency of the decision-making processes and optimize the use of available resources.

We echo the call for gradual and phased reform. Systemic change of this magnitude must be carefully sequenced to avoid disruption to the functioning of the Organization.

We look forward to continued engagement on this matter and remain committed to a reform process that strengthens the Organization for all Member States.

Thank You!