

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 18.7: Report of the External Auditor

Agenda Item 18.8: Report of the Internal Auditor

Agenda Item 18.9: External and internal audit recommendations: progress on implementation

Agenda Item 18.10: Proposed amendments to the process for the selection of the External Auditor

(Word Count 172)

Thank you Chair,

India notes the External and Internal auditors' reports. India, as the incumbent External Auditor, welcomes WHO's unqualified audit opinion for 2025.

However, alignment in principle must be matched by implementation in practice. India is concerned that Programme Implementation and Measurement of Impact is the priority most directly felt at the country level. India considers that the nine priority areas identified under the External and internal audit

recommendations are well aligned with the Organization's operational realities and the expectations of Member States, particularly developing nations.

The report also highlights the pending implementation of audit recommendations. In this regard, India calls upon the Secretariat to present a time-bound remediation plan for outstanding recommendations.

Chair,

India reiterates the importance of a rigorous, transparent and merit-based selection process for the External Auditor, given the critical role of the office as an independent guarantor of financial accountability and transparency.

India looks forward to continued engagement on these priorities and stands ready to support the Secretariat in strengthening WHO's governance, efficiency and impact.

Thank You!