

THIRTY-FIFTH MEETING of the PROGRAMME, BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
of the WHO EXECUTIVE BOARD
(19–21 January 2022)



National Statement

Agenda:3.10 Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee

• *Terms of reference*

(Word Count:282)

Thank you, Chair / Moderator,

India takes note of the important role played by the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee as an expert advisory capacity providing independent expert advice to the Executive Board, through its Programme, Budget and Administration Committee.

2. In this regard, in light of the growing risks associated with emergence of disease outbreaks, **India believes** in facilitating and strengthening the role and functioning of bodies such as the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee (IOAC), which is a legitimate oversight body for the WHE programme. **However, India believes that Member States should be consulted** on appointment of subject experts and must be in sync with the requirement of the Member State.

3. Additionally, on taking the necessary actions to ensure a periodic review of these terms of reference, **India recommends** for regular reviews with more effective representation of the LMICs and the high disease burden countries in different decision-making processes in WHO's Technical Committees.

4. India believes that **regular consultations and review** by engaging experts, academicians and policy makers from the high disease burden nations in the decision making and policy formulation processes may play an important role in policy making.

5. Taking note of '**Enterprise risk management, internal controls and compliance**', and also, if the Committee has all the **necessary authority to fulfil its responsibilities, including access to information, records, facilities and staff.** India recommends that:

- accountability of IOAC must also be in commensuration with the proposed extensive power it will be conferred upon.
- integrity and sovereignty of Member States must be respected and retained.
- with such extensive role to play in the staffing matters, IOAC may also play a crucial role in the prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment across WHO organization.

Thank you!