



150th SESSION of the WHO EXECUTIVE BOARD

(Geneva, 24–29 January 2022)

10:00AM – 5:00PM (CET)/2:30PM – 9:30PM (IST)

Agenda: Pillar 1: One billion more people benefitting from universal health coverage

Item 8: The global health sector strategies on, respectively, HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections

Item 9: Global strategy for tuberculosis research and innovation

(Item 10: Road map for neglected tropical diseases 2021–2030

(Word Count: 387)

Thank you, Chair!

India recognises the complex interplay of health issues associated with HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections, and the importance of the Global strategy for tuberculosis research and innovation in the Report by DG.

With regard to the global health sector strategies on, respectively, HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections, **India agrees** that *“the full benefits of available tools and technologies are not being realized, many populations are left behind and structural barriers to accelerating progress persist”*. **India also takes note of draft Global health strategy 2022-2030** and based on our own experience would like suggest few initiative which India has taken to address challenges and structural barriers to achieve the SDG 2030 :

- a. Scaling-up of differentiated prevention and care package.
- b. providing multi-month dispensation for efficient delivery.
- c. offering Advanced Disease Package for optimized service delivery.
- d. focusing upon retention in care and viral suppression; and by
- e. implementing newer combination prevention approaches and strategies where developing seamless integrated information management system for better patient care and supply chain management may be extremely useful, especially at country level.

Chair,

India appreciates WHO's role and efforts in providing guidance and sharing lessons from case studies of programmatic innovations to address emerging challenges in tuberculosis prevention and care. In this regard, we would like to share that:

- i. India supports the WHO Director General's initiative of **FIND.TREAT.ALL** flagship initiative to end TB.
- ii. India, with its inclusive policies, state specific strategic plans, multisectoral efforts, and partnerships is striving towards the commitment of our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, to eliminate TB in India by 2025, five years before the global target.

I would like to share that although COVID-19 has adversely affected essential tuberculosis services worldwide but India with its robust healthcare system has managed to address all TB related co-morbidities, minimizing access barriers to diagnosis, treatment and provide nutritional support to all TB patients.

- India has also launched '**TB Mukh Bharat**' (**TB Free India**)' initiative, as a people's movement for TB elimination in India.
- Besides this, there is an ongoing phase 3 clinical trials of TB prevention vaccines and post TB vaccines to prevent TB recurrence in India.

Lastly, I would like to reiterate that **India is committed** to control spread of HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections and elimination of Tuberculosis globally.

Thank you!