



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 11: Immunization Agenda 2030

Item 12: Infection prevention and control

Item 13: Global road map on defeating meningitis by 2030

(Word Count: 356)

Thank you, Chair!

India takes note of the DG's draft global report on the '**Immunization Agenda 2030**' for 2021, we would like to share that **India is committed to achieve its Sustainable Development Goal 2030**. We are **running one of the largest Universal Immunisation Program (UIP)** and have fast tracked the process to achieve the SDG number 3 by 2030.

Taking note of Para 4 of the report, India believes that:

- It is essential to bridge the gap between manufacturer, local supplier and up to the end consumers and ensure effective cooperation amongst the regulators.
- There is need to ensure a regular interaction between clinical medical services, logistics provider and procurement agencies to ensure equitable distribution of vaccines and medical supplies.

In India, the existing infrastructure of the **Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)**, including the supply and cold chain system, has been accordingly augmented to support the COVID vaccination programme.

- In addition, to boost and sustain immunization coverage specially in high-risk areas, the third phase of the **vaccination** programme is planned from February 2022 to vaccinate all the left out and dropped out children and pregnant women.

The vaccines manufactured in India can be a major contributor in the world for management of COVID-19 pandemic with its scaled-up manufacturing capacity and scientific developments and interventions. Being one of the largest vaccine manufacturing capacity with recognized vaccine manufacturers, we have:

- already **supplied COVID-19 vaccines to LMIC through COVAX facility.**
- also supplied our **Made in India COVID-19 vaccines** in the form of grants-in-aid and commercial sales by Indian manufacturers and through GAVI's COVAX facility to other countries under our '**Vaccine Maitri**' initiative launched in January 2021. Till December 2021, we already had exported 101.5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines.

India **believes** that we must realise the urgency of time and collectively work to reduce the inequity in access to vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics. Any waiver in tax on these tools shall help in addressing the gap.

Acknowledging the implementation plans, India ensures its commitment towards achieving global vaccination targets and our support to other countries in manufacturing and rolling them out to everyone for recovery and scaling-up of immunization activities.

Thank you!