



## 150th SESSION of the WHO EXECUTIVE BOARD

**(Geneva, 24–29 January 2022)**

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

### **Pillar 2: One billion more people benefitting from universal health coverage**

Agenda 14: Standardization of medical devices nomenclature

(Word Count: 315)

This is to share few of the concerns of India with regards to the discussion in the 150<sup>th</sup> EB meeting today on Agenda Item 14 '*Standardization of medical devices nomenclature*' discussed under the Pillar 1: One billion more people benefitting from universal health coverage. Due to paucity and lack of time, the intervention could not be presented during the Session thus, India places its written intervention for record.

We recognize and acknowledge the Report by DG on Standardization of medical devices nomenclature: International classification, coding and nomenclature of medical devices. However, taking note of **Para 21 of the Report** we would like to **share our divergence** on:

Para 21 which states "*As requested by Member States during the 145th and 148th sessions of the Executive Board, and during the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly, WHO will not be creating a new nomenclature system, but will continue working with the four most widely used nomenclature systems to work towards the WHO principles of governance, transparency and access, support mapping and harmonization.*" in this regard, it is stated that this para seems to be factually incorrect and needs to revisited and revised.

**India concurs** with Member States on importance of standardization of devices nomenclature. In this regard, **India appreciates** the work of WHO in consultation with the four existing nomenclature agencies namely, the European Medical Device Nomenclature, the Global Medical Devices Nomenclature, the Universal Medical Devices Nomenclature System and the United Nations Standard Products and Services Code.

- However, we seek for WHO to adopt or adapt a nomenclature system which is open source, free for access by all Manufacturers and Member Countries.
- **We believe** that in absence of standard WHO nomenclature, dependence on paid privately owned system has severe implications on accessibility, affordability, and availability of medical devices. Therefore, it is important for WHO to work towards to open-source, free Global nomenclature system of medical devices.

**Thank you.**