

THIRTY-FIFTH MEETING of the PROGRAMME, BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE



of the WHO EXECUTIVE BOARD

(19–21 January 2022)

National Statement

Agenda:3.3 Sustainable financing: report of the Working Group

(Word Count:251)

Thank you, Chair / Moderator,

India recognizes the work of the Working Group on Sustainable Financing. In this regard, we appreciate the constructive engagement of all the Member States sharing their valuable inputs and concerns. **Taking note of limited time for discussion and divergence** on few crucial issues, **India believes** that continuous engagement of the Working Group Bureau with Member States shall be helpful in building consensus on matters of concern.

2. **India concurs** with DG's remark on need to redress the imbalance between assessed contributions, and voluntary, earmarked contributions of the WHO.
3. **We recognize** the need to provide adequate resources to WHO, through a **sustainable financing model**, to enable WHO to perform the role envisaged for it by the member States.

- However, **acknowledging the Report**,

"many Member States face severe financial challenges, including those accentuated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which may hinder their capacity to fulfil their financial obligations, sometimes despite existing mechanisms;"

India, with responsibility of its population of more than 1.30 billion, currently finds it difficult to support the proposal for increase in member States' assessed contribution to fund 50% of WHO's Budget. Though as situation improves, we may later consider this proposal by the WHO.

- **We believe**, in this regard, that a **phased approach** should be adopted, **stipulating an incremental increase** that takes into consideration the financial situation in member States due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- **India welcomes** the proposal that the phased increase may be implemented in a stepwise manner, starting from 2024-2025 and achieving the target by the biennium 2028-2029.

Thank you!