

Statement by India - Delivered by Ambassador & PR to the WTO

AGENDA 12. STATEMENT BY COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, ECUADOR, PANAMA AND PARAGUAY ON TRADE RESTRICTIONS THAT BLOCK EQUAL ACCESS TO COVID-19 VACCINES

Chair, we thank the co-sponsors for their statement.

2. We would like to reiterate that Export Restrictions are a dual use policy tool. During the pandemic where we are not working in perfect market condition, while one country used this tool for ensuring equitable distribution of critical medicines, diagnostic kits, ventilators and personal protective equipment to more than 150 countries based on mutually assessed needs and in the absence of which, entire supply might have been cornered by the rich and privileged lot with deep pockets. On the other hand, some countries used export restrictions as a tool to prevent cross-border shipment of vaccines and their raw materials from their territory.

3. Chair, we need to ensure smooth and open supply chains of raw materials and inputs required for manufacture of vaccines, medicines and therapeutics related to Covid19. Our efforts should not stop at availability of vaccines but we should sincerely work together on their timely and equitable accessibility and affordability. Therefore, export restrictions will continue to play their role as a policy tool, though it depends as to how a Member chose to use them.
