

156th Session of WHO Executive Board Meeting

3rd to 11th February 2025, Geneva



**Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Government of India**

Intervention by India

Agenda Item 23.2: Proposed programme budget 2026–2027

Thank you Mr. chair,

India welcomes emphasis on evidence-based prioritization in the Draft Programme Budget 26-27. We also note introduction of new programme management system and the extension of the Programme Budget Digital Platform in this budget cycle, as well as congratulate WHO on the successful outcome of the Investment Round held during the G20 Summit in Rio.

India has been a consistent supporter of WHO's financial security through our timely assessed contributions and active Voluntary Contributions.

India understands the financial challenges arising from the US decision to withdraw from the WHO. In considering this change, however, we believe that the quick fix should not be to plug the resulting deficit in financing through the increase of ACs of other donors. We need to understand that when member countries agreed to increase AC by 20% for FY 2024-2025 and agreed to consider further proposals for increases, it was not meant to make up for losses for the withdrawal of the largest donor.

There is need for more work on 2026-2027 budgeting, which should include reimagining and streamlining the existing programs. We need to be realistic in our approach and see how the existing programmes can be restructured and WHO is able to reduce its running costs.

Digital and Tech provide some of the answers to achieving greater efficiency and accountability. Faced with budget cuts, there is also a need to preserve and strengthen core functions of WHO, which will only increase the salience of the organisation over time. We also support the call for financial scenarios to be presented for consideration.

We also believe that the focus should be on strengthening country capacities, capacity building and technical assistance in a manner that the countries themselves are able to run programmes based on their own priorities. At the same time, we also advocate for consistent support for Global Technical Centers (GTCs), which are essential in driving health innovation and delivering customized technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives.

Thank you!