

**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
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**Using science, technology and innovation to close the gap on Sustainable
Development Goal 3, good health and well-being**

Statement submitted by

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Inputs for Hon'ble Minister's interventions at UNCSTD roundtable

18th May 2021

Theme: "Using Science, Technology and Innovation to close the gap on Sustainable Development Goal 3 on "Good Health and Well-Being"

Format: Round Table

(Time for Initial Remarks : 5-7 Minutes)

- Mr Ruijan Wang, Vice Chair of the Committee on Science & Technology Developments,
- Hon'ble Ministers from from Gambia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines,
- Doctoral colleagues and Researchers from leading organisations of the world,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

Greetings from People of India and on my personal behalf.

1. We are passing through a difficult time when COVID-19 pandemic might have closed the physical boundaries of nations, but it has brought us closer than ever before. The experience of this unprecedented pandemic highlighted that the challenges of the future are global and need everyone to work together. Over the years, India has proactively developed strong International Science and Innovation partnerships with a shared goal of good health and well-being.
2. Our strategic plans, as mentioned in our National Health Policy- 2017, are committed to achieve the third Sustainable Development Goal (SDG3), the topic of our discussion today - "Good Health and Well Being". We are focusing to support, develop, test and validate affordable indigenous technologies and translation to deal with various health challenges including viral outbreaks and public health emergencies.

3. India has focused on creating national facilities to enhance research knowledge base with an overall aim to establish leadership in structural biology, enzymology, ligand/drug discovery and to combat new and emerging diseases.
4. We are going to set up Biosafety Level-3 and -4 Facilities in the next two years to promote R&D activities in frontiers areas of infectious pathogen research, drug discovery, diagnosis, novel vaccine investigation, and to investigate and handle the new, emerging, and infectious etiologic agents that cause contagious diseases in human, plants, livestock and wildlife and genetically modified organisms. These facilities will also be made available to start-ups and MSMEs to contribute to the development and validation of their antiviral product pipeline.
5. We have rolled out a Special Initiative **CAWACH** (Center for Augmenting War on COVID 19 Health Crisis) in 2020 and has supported 51 Startups in thematic areas of Ventilators, respiratory aids, diagnostics, Protective Gears, Sanitizers, dis-infectants and informatics solutions. Many of the CAWACH funded products have reached commercialization stage and are now being deployed in market all over the country.
6. We are supporting COVID-19 vaccine development and manufacturing activities through various initiatives. Currently, in India, 03 vaccine candidates for COVID-19 have been approved for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). Besides, nearly 15 vaccine candidates are being supported and are in different stages of trials.

7. The Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) is closely monitoring the genomic variations in the SARS-CoV-2 on a regular basis through. This crucial dynamic knowledge generated through this research consortium is also assisting in developing diagnostics and potential therapeutics and vaccines in the future.

Other health challenges

8. The interconnected world has made our health issues global. Our commitment to healthy people is reflected in immense efforts being made at national, bilateral, and multilateral level in the areas of one health, maternal and child health, and non-communicable diseases.
9. A continuous and relentless effort is also required to diagnose and treat various kinds of cancers, tuberculosis that exist even today and claim millions of lives around the globe. We have been together in the fight against these diseases over several decades, and we should continue these efforts until we win over.
10. The scientific community today believes that one of the major challenges of 21st century will be Antimicrobial Resistance. We are focusing on research to understand and mitigate the threat caused by AMR at national and international level.
11. We are also working on other aspects of providing healthy living to our citizens. These include continuously striving towards achieving ambitious carbon footprints for clean breathe. For this purpose, we have launched National Mission on Electric Mobility. Aahar Kranti Mission (Healthy Diet Mission) is leading to provide Good Diet, and Good Cognition, helping to address the peculiar problem of hunger and diseases in abundance, and to march towards achieving Nutrition Security.

We wish together we shall be able to provide our citizens a better planet to live healthy, happily.

Jai Hind.
