7.1 Programme Budget Performance Assessment 2016-17

Thank you Chair.

India compliments the Reginal Director for her leadership in the effective planning and monitoring when it comes to implementation of programme budget for the biennium 2016-17. It is through a continuous engagement with country offices and member states that SEARO is able to achieve nearly 100 % delivery of its work on its outputs, with 740 of its 756 outputs being fully achieved.

India believes that timely implementation of the budgeted amount coupled with regular midterm reviews and mid-course correction, if needed, is at the core of performance and delivery. It is heartening to note that South East Asian Region has adhered to the timelines and achieved almost 100 % reporting compliance and out of 1583 active top tasks, 99 % are on track.

India would like to highlight that in the recent GPW also, the continued focus on health system strengthening, NCDs, vector borne diseases including neglected tropical diseases, TB and other ongoing priorities of SEARO region are critical to achieve the targets, and continued engagement with member states for implementation and monitoring will be the key to ensure high performance in the region. Similarly focus on early release of funds to ensure timely implementation is crucial.

India would also like to support DG, WHO for focus on increased funding through assessed contribution and untied voluntary contributions as a key to provide flexibility to WHO while undertaking programme implementation.

Thank You.

7.2 Programme Budget Matters – Programme Budget 2018-19 : Implementation

Thank you Chair.

India would like to compliment Regional Director for her leadership and the fact that SEARO has the highest percentage utilization against resources as well as the allocated programme budget and midterm review indicating that over 90 % of the 1418 Top Tasks across the budget centers are on track to be achieved during the course of biennium.

It is, however, to be noted that 94 tasks have not yet started, and India proposes that regular and critical review of the same is needed so that SEA Region can maintain its leadership position when it comes to implementation and more so, as each of the tasks already prioritized impacts lives of large number of people.

Equally important would be the focus on 'value for money' principle and to that extent India proposes that an institutional mechanism be built in as part of implementation mechanism to monitor the same.

The monitoring dashboard ensures transparency and timely feedback for effective implementation. The same can also be enhanced further to have a 'member state specific dashboards' containing micro details of financial and technical achievements, duly split up task wise under various components, for the member states to analyze the same and for taking required steps to ensure effective and timely implementation of prioritized tasks.

India would also like to urge that Regional office should work along with member states for early implementation of the tasks so that as far as possible we are able to spend the budget allotted well in time, so as to create a case for additional higher funds allocation to SEA region.

Further, we would like to propose a quarterly meeting of IH focal points , WCOs and Regional nominees to reconcile the expenditures incurred and those in the pipeline and planning process for a wholistic picture on either side.

Thank You.

7.3 Proposed Program Budget 2020-21

Thank You Chair.

India would like to thank DG WHO for the new vision of triple billion goals with a view to have a more meaningful WHO equipped to manage the multitude of health challenges which world presently is besieged with. Equally important is the focus on higher assessed contribution and voluntary contributions which are untied.

India would also like to thank both Regional Office and Country Office for their regular follow up and in guiding member states on the new planning and budgeting framework including scope and targets.

India would, however, seek additional inputs in terms of recognizing the inter-relation among the "triple billion" goals and distribution of targets across the goals and outcomes.

Further, since the process being new, India would request more clarity on the methodology used to measure contribution and accountability for the various targets and how the same will be linked to the disease burden and population size for a particular country.

The linkage of outcome with existing SDG indicators and other mainstream indicators and reporting requirements which GPW13 entails, need to be understood in greater detail to prevent both duplications at country level and their measuring feasibility, with particular consideration on country capacity to report.

Under the leadership of Regional Director, the regional office is already a pioneer in IT initiatives and automation tools and we would request their further enhancement with a country specific dashboard available to the IH focal point with micro details for regular and continuous monitoring besides the quarterly review meeting of IH focal points, WCOs and regional nominees.

Thank you.

7.4 Evaluation

Thank you Chair.

India compliments Regional Director for committing to advance the culture of evaluation as outlined in WHO South East Asian Regional Framework for Strengthening Evaluation for Learning and Development and South East Asian Region Evaluation Workplan for 2018-19.

India feels that this is a step in right direction and the Evaluation will provide us the required support and guidance in terms of whether we have been able to achieve the outcomes we had envisaged and also the crucial learning if the investment is 'value for money' in terms of competing demands on funds for health initiatives.

We propose that Evaluation as such should be an integral part of any programs we take up on a regular basis and action shall be initiated as per the Evaluation Reports so received. An Action Taken Report on Evaluation studies should be an integral part of our discussion and reporting.

Thank you.