

SRI LANKA

Thank you chair,

Sri Lanka notes the report by the Director General

Tuberculosis (TB) is a communicable disease that causes ill health among nearly 10 thousand people around the globe. Sri Lanka is a low burden country of TB with estimated incidence of 64 per 100,000 population. The country has achieved high treatment success rates and provide TB diagnostic and treatment services free through district chest clinics. Sri Lanka has committed to end TB by 2035. The current National Strategic Plan for 2021 -2025 was developed incorporating the new WHO targets for diagnosis and treatment of TB including child TB and multidrug resistant TB. National policy on latent TB management was implemented Island wide. Steps were taken to ensure sustainable financing for TB diagnosis, treatment, prevention and innovative research.

The recent Covid 19 pandemic has impacted on the progress made towards ending TB epidemic by 2035. Frequent lockdowns and travel restrictions lead to limited access to TB diagnosis and treatment which resulted in increase in TB deaths and decrease in TB incidence globally. The patients provided with treatment for multi drug resistant TB was decreased globally as well as the global spending on TB care. .

Similarly, Covid 19 has affected the TB case detection, treatment provision and treatment success rates in Sri Lanka. Newly diagnosed TB cases were reduced by 14% in 2020 and 20% in 2021 compared with 2019. TB deaths were increased from 7.1 % in 2019 to 7.6 % in 2020. Treatment success rate also reduced from 84.2% in 2019 to 82.2 % in 2020. Poor access to health services during lock downs, poor health seeking behavior due to fear & stigma for Covid has contributed to this in spite of continues service provision. However, with the adaptation to new normalcy, National Tuberculosis Control Programme is also striving to restore and strengthen island-wide TB care services while adhering to COVID precautions. The conducive partnerships are built with multiple stakeholders to address identified issues and to approach high – risk groups. WHO rapid diagnostics are widely used for diagnosis of TB and rifampicin resistant TB. New shorter regimens are introduced for MDRTB treatment. Newer

COMMITTEE ROOM A - PILLAR 01 SUB GROUP 02

Agenda Item 14.3 - Global strategy for tuberculosis: research and innovation

Intervention read by :

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Policies and guidelines are developed and innovative approaches are taken based on the global and local evidence.