



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

150th Session of the WHO Executive Board Virtual Platform 24-29 January 2022

Pilar	2	One billion more people better protected from health emergencies
Agenda	16.1	Poliomyelitis eradication
	16.2	Polio transition planning and polio post-certification

The Philippines believes that the Polio Eradication Strategy 2022-2026 when fully implemented will achieve a world free of all forms of polio virus. The tools and technology that are currently available are effective. For example, the Philippines successfully closed the recent polio outbreak after a 2-year long run of supplemental immunization activities, improved detection and response through sensitive surveillance, implementation of Pepper Mild Mottle virus testing as an Internal Quality Control, establishment of sequencing capacity for polio identification and the introduction of the 2-dose Inactivated Polio Vaccine schedule in pilot regions to gradually transition into implementation nationwide this year.

But access and use of these tools and technology and the creation of enabling environment that will eliminate obstacles such as vaccine hesitancy, risk of current and future pandemic, inefficient health service delivery and improvement of social determinants that would disable disease transmission would start with the sense of urgency and accountability at the local and national leadership. Hence, we believe that advocacy activities that will generate political will is the foundation of the Polio Eradication Strategy. This could not be overemphasized in areas with humanitarian conflict and where health is politicized.

We also recommend efficient use of resources such as integration of surveillance systems and appropriate health infrastructures through country priorities on:

1. Expansion of enterovirus testing capacity to serve routine diagnostics for patient management;
2. Strengthening enterovirus surveillance such as the Hand-foot-and-mouth Disease Surveillance;
3. NRLs and surveillance systems for central nervous system infections;
4. Improving microbiological testing national standards for water and sewage;
5. Expansion of the scope of Polio laboratory containment survey to Emerging Dangerous Pathogens as part of biosecurity.
6. Use of Polio laboratory as training laboratory and Polio staff as trainers for virus isolation for medical technologists and other related professions; and
7. Collaboration with FDAs for regulation of in vitro diagnostic medical devices;

Thank you.