



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

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

Pilar	1	One billion more people benefitting from universal health coverage
Agenda	7	Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (batch b)

Thank you, Chair.

The Philippines fully supports the WHO in addressing diabetes as a public health problem. It is one of the leading causes of mortality in the country. Hence, primary health care level interventions to reduce risk factors and ensure continuous access to quality treatment and care are very important to save lives. We support the WHO's prequalification program for insulin providing countries and patients with access to quality products at affordable prices.

Meanwhile, the country's draft National Oral Health Policy will include key strategies of health promotion and prevention during the mother and child's 'First 1000 Days'. These are early childhood oral screening, healthy lifestyle counseling and preventive primary care services such as quarterly fluoride varnish applications and introduction of primary care 'dental home' as early as the child's first birthday.

We also commit to fully support the WHO's direction to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer. Pilot testing of WHO's recommended cervical cancer screening guidelines using HPV-DNA testing as primary screening test for cervical cancer is being conducted in the country.

On Obesity, which is an emerging public health concern with its prevalence increasing among Filipino children, adolescents and adults particularly women, we are intensifying efforts through a proposed National Policy addressing overweight and obesity, taxation of sweetened beverages, nutrition labelling, school policy on healthy food options, health and nutrition promotion, food-based dietary guidelines, policy on elimination of trans-fats in the diet, standards of care on obesity, integration of screening, diagnosis and education on healthy lifestyle and proper nutrition at the primary care level. Thank you, Chair.