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Agenda	12	Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health (2016–2030)
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The Philippines thanks the Director General for his comprehensive report on the Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health (2016–2030) and the value it has given to the integration of health interventions into identified stages of life such as childhood and motherhood to ensure equitable access to quality healthcare for all at every care interaction. We also commend the WHO for taking active steps to address the historical fragmentation of vertical programs in its guidance, outputs, and support as shared in the report and we request for continued use of an integrated life course approach in its future outputs. The Philippines has started to implement this approach and is committed to address structural, governance, and health system barriers towards integration.

We are developing an upcoming Child, Adolescent, and Maternal Health Medium Term Strategic Action Plan to catch up with SDG targets and ensure the improved health of the Filipino people. Similarly seen in other Member States, our national performance on infant, child, and maternal mortality as well as other health indicators have improved, but not enough to meet global targets. Health systems strengthening is necessary to ensure adequate access points for service delivery, especially for neonatal health, maternal health, and sexual and reproductive health. We also recognize that a country’s health systems can only do so much without the action of non-health actors. We request the Secretariat to develop technical guidance on better strategies that highlight these intersection points to address social determinants of health, such as poverty, education, violence, and commercial determinants such as diet and nutrition and substance use. We likewise request the WHO to provide technical guidance on adopting integrative planning for programs and interventions for good nutrition among women, adolescents, and as foundation for the First 1000 Days of Life.

We support the report finding on the need to ensure access to appropriate care and services for the sick child who needs them, in terms of evidence based guidelines but also in access to medicines. Affordable access to pediatric formulations of essential commodities in low and middle income countries need to be addressed within the larger work on global pharmaceutical policy reforms especially for monopoly and innovative commodities and medical devices.

In promotion of child health, the Philippines is implementing a settings-based approach with a dedicated stream for developing Healthy Learning Institutions which integrates and prioritizes health service interventions that can be done in schools, including structural investments for enabling environments and inclusion of core healthy behaviors as among priority health education topics.

Lastly, the Philippines also recognizes the impetus to deliberately improve adolescent health. Priority strategies include developing evidence-based integrated guidance for screening and service delivery with adolescent friendly service providers in health facilities and schools, and interventions on addressing mental health, substance use, sexual and reproductive health, and violence - not just for adolescents but including the family and the communities around them, to ensure appropriate safety nets are available to address structural and social determinants of adolescent health.

We look forward to collaborating with the WHO and other Member States towards the realization of a healthier and more equitable world for our children, adolescents, and women. Thank you.**END**