



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
76th World Health Assembly
21 May - 30 May 2023 • Geneva, Switzerland

Agenda	13.1	Universal health coverage - Reorienting health systems to primary health care as a resilient foundation for universal health coverage and preparations for a high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on universal health coverage (with 4 resolutions)
	13.2	Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, and mental health (with one decision) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draft updated menu of policy options and cost-effective interventions for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases

Thank you very much Chair.

The Philippines supports the priorities for action to reorient health systems to primary health care as a resilient foundation for universal health coverage; the resolutions on integrated emergency, critical and operative care for universal health coverage and protection from health emergencies; increasing access to medical oxygen; and strengthening diagnostics capacity.

Member States will benefit from guidance on non-hospital or community emergency care, financing programs to widen access for diagnostics and medical device capacity for routine and emergency care, strengthening healthcare provider networks, patient navigation from community-to-hospital, and the evidence-based allocation necessary to close the gaps in supply of primary care facilities.

On NCDs, we are grateful for the recognition of the country's commitment to scale-up actions to meet SDG targets to reduce NCD premature mortality, especially for conditions caused by tobacco, vape, and alcohol use, heart health, diabetes, obesity, cancer, and mental health conditions. We remain committed to implement stronger legislations and interventions consistent with global strategies.!

We highly value the 2022 update on Annex 3 of cost effective NCD interventions and best-buys. It is important to constantly update the integrated technical guidance to guide Member States in prioritizing with scarce resources.

We also strongly advocate for a stronger mental health component in the menu of cost-effective interventions in the global action plan on NCDs. This should include the necessary supplemental guidance on task shifting of non-pharmacologic mental health interventions to both non-mental health professionals and mental health service providers in order to capacitate non-specialists in delivering mental health care in non-specialized settings as primary point of care. We also support the integration of a menu of options for environmental interventions that are contributors to NCD such as air pollution, as well as the integration of nutrition services into UHC benefit packages.

We underscore the need to develop global strategies and technical guidance to manage conflicts of interest related to commercial determinants of health. This is crucial to ensure transparent, unbiased decision-making in public health policies to strengthen the integrity of health systems, foster public trust, and mitigate the undue influence of commercial interests on public health.

For the upcoming High Level UN General Assembly, the Philippines commits to ensure NCDs and use of cost-effective interventions are among priority services to be implemented in primary-care oriented health systems as we all push forth our visions for Universal Health Care. Thank you.**END.**