



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

76th World Health Assembly
21 – 30 May 2023 / Geneva, Switzerland

Agenda	27	Pillar 2: One billion more people better protected from health emergencies F. The World Together: Establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating body to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response
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REQUESTED ACTIONS: To note the report

The Philippines sincerely thanks and congratulates the Secretariat and distinguished colleagues from South Africa, Kingdom of Netherlands, Brazil, Egypt, Thailand and Japan who are serving as INB co-chairs and vice-chairs for the hard work and dedication that they have devoted for meaningful Member State negotiations in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body for a global accord on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response.

We attest that the INB schedule, together with the process of the Working Group on IHR Amendments, is very challenging for many Member States in terms of both the temporal and human resource dimensions. Nevertheless, the Philippines always stands ready to strengthen the process through inter-agency discourses to ensure whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach at the national level, thereby ensuring that the voices of sectors beyond health are heard in the consensus-building processes. We want a global accord that is able to ensure a resilient, not fragmented, global governance architecture in the face of future major health emergencies. “The World Together” means that widening the participatory and partnership environment, beyond the health sector, through the involvement of other international organizations, is an important component of the negotiation process.

It is also imperative to build the Member States' capacities to ensure political commitments and enable legislative adjustments that will be crucial for the successful implementation of the international agreement. The Philippines strongly advocates for a future international instrument that will truly address the glaring gaps in equity that were highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic, and which continues to persist in this World. The global accord must make the World work together to ensure the protection of the most vulnerable populations, including women and migrant health workers, especially those from the Low and Middle Income Countries.

Thank you.**END**