



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	15.1	Strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies
	15.2	Standing Committee on Pandemic and Emergency Preparedness and Response

Thank you, Chair.

The Philippines expresses appreciation for all the presented response efforts. We support the platforms and initiatives that will constitute a responsive and effective mechanism for health emergencies. We acknowledge the value of a unified platform that streamlines information and facilitates faster and targeted response efforts.

With regard to the proposed amendments to the IHR, we welcome the proposed Universal Health Periodic Review and we commit to participating in the review mechanism, as we have with past joint external evaluations and have engaged with other relevant local entities to strengthen our own risk assessment capacity. We agree on the final agreed text and anticipate that the proposed amendments will address the growing concerns on misinformation, stigmatization on the pandemic response, and other identified priority concerns of the Member States.

The importance of a well-organized and effective response to any health emergency cannot be overemphasized. Any death, disability or disease prevented from the impact of these emergencies is worth all the effort, time and resources poured. Together we can align our responses through a more effective multi-sectoral and multidisciplinary approach at all levels.

The recent calamities we experienced over the last two years while there is an ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, have shown that the importance of managing the event, survivors, non-human resources, information management and service providers such as strengthening the Philippine Emergency Medical Assistance Team, including documentation of all key lessons that will set our direction and show that preparation is a continuum.

Lastly, we support the creation of the Standing Committee on Pandemic and Emergency Preparedness and Response. The collective knowledge of member states will be beneficial in building not only health security but also resilience.

Thank you.