



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	15.3	WHO's work in health emergencies
	15.5	Global Health for Peace Initiative

We appreciate the Secretariat's efforts to review the existing IHR (2005) State Party Self-Assessment Annual Report and Joint External Evaluation tools to incorporate lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. This is necessary to strengthen Member States' core IHR capacities, and is being initiated by the Philippines to strengthen its surveillance systems.

We also note the efforts of the Field Epidemiological Service to develop one Health field epidemiology core competencies that include curricula guidelines. We look forward to these forthcoming guidelines and guidance as we aim to expand the scale of our own Field Epidemiology Training Program in support of the Philippine Universal Health Care Law.

Further, we continue to welcome timely issuance of recommendations by the WHO-Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization on all aspects of COVID-19 response, including the safe reopening of the economy in the new normal, as well as continual engagement of technical expert groups. This remains important to Member States in setting their policy directions.

However, we wish to underscore the central role of the WHO in ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines and ancillaries, in addition to the support from the COVAX facility. The implementation of the Philippine National COVID-19 vaccination program highlights the need for efficient procurement of ancillaries, apart from vaccines, and especially for pediatric vaccination. We likewise advocate for licensing agreements that better ensure access to COVID-19 medicines

The Philippines also notes the WHO-supported epidemiological and analytical cells that have conducted integrated analyses to guide response activities in select Member States. The Philippines welcomes the value being given to more holistic analytical approaches that recognize evidence derived from different fields.

Finally, we also support the proposed decision that adopts a multisectoral approach in the development of a roadmap for the Global Health for Peace Initiative. Thank you.