



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

150th Session of the WHO Executive Board Virtual Platform 24-29 January 2022

Agenda	2	Report by the Director-General
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The Philippines thanks the Director General for the updates on global coordination, especially in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We take this opportunity to commend the DG and the Secretariat for their perseverance and commitment in supporting inclusive, transparent, consensus-based and Member State-led discussions towards sustainable financing for WHO and deep diving on the benefits of an international instrument to strengthen preparedness and response to health emergencies.

Dr. Tedros, you have precisely emphasized that COVID-19 is a pandemic of inequality and that it has pushed millions deeper into poverty. Being among the nine WHO partner countries for the “Special Initiative for Action on the Social Determinants of Health for Advancing Health Equity”, the Philippines draws attention to the essentiality of WHO capacity to support initiatives for strengthening health systems at primary care level through universal health coverage and reinforcing the One Health Approach. These are fundamental to strengthen health security capacities at the local level to contain the spread of a pathogen at source point; and it is only at this point that we can say that the World has truly learned the lessons of this pandemic.

Further, the times call for vigilant actions to expose and resolve issues of intellectual property, technology transfer and local manufacturing capacities for healthcare, especially during emergencies; while ensuring that efforts to combat non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and address social determinants of health are not lagging behind.

The Philippines remains steadfast in its commitment to reinforce initiatives for the achievement of the Triple Billion targets, acknowledging the need to extend deadlines because progress towards the SDGs is not occurring fast enough and was even stalled in some areas. We stand in solidarity with the Secretariat and fellow Member States in realizing and achieving a new vision for global health. We look forward to a stronger WHO governance with improved transparency, oversight, and inclusive priority setting process.

Thank you.