



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

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

Pilar	1	One billion more people benefitting from universal health coverage
Agenda	7	Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (batch c)

The Philippines fully supports the establishment and development of the 10 year Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and Other Neurological Disorders (IGAP). In line with its cooperation to support the measure, the Philippines strongly recommends that:

1. Epilepsy be made a core pillar of the IGAP. This is consistent with the findings of the Investment case for Mental Health in the Philippines which shows that investment on epilepsy care would yield the best return of investment for the country;
1. Epilepsy be included in all targets and objectives by using the phrase “epilepsy and other neurological disorders” in all related documents; and
2. IGAP sets ambitious targets for the reduction of the epilepsy treatment gap and address stigma and discrimination of those afflicted with the disease.

The Philippine Mental Health Law included epilepsy, dementia and developmental disorders as the top three types of neurological disorders in the country that should be immediately addressed. We believe that having the benefit of a specific, member-state driven, global action plan on epilepsy and other neurological disorders would help encourage and invigorate domestic legislation and implementation.

The Philippines also supports the draft action plan (2022–2030) to effectively implement the global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcoholic liquor as a public health priority. The approval and issuance of a domestic law to increase excise taxes on liquor and e-cigarettes was identified as the best buy intervention that has helped in the reduction of alcohol consumption in our country. This measure also regulates the pricing of alcohol products; increases the sin tax imposed on liquor; and prohibits access and purchase of liquor by setting the minimum age to purchase to 21 years old.

An Executive Order was also issued during the surge of COVID-19 which effectively banned the sale, distribution, and consumption of liquor and restricted public gatherings due to consumption of liquor during our implementation of the modified enhanced quarantine period. Thank you.