



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

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Pilar	1	One billion more people benefitting from universal health coverage
Agenda	8	The global health sector strategies on, respectively, HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections
	9	Global strategy for tuberculosis research and innovation
	10	Road map for neglected tropical diseases 2021–2030

Thank you, Chair.

The Philippines acknowledges the tremendous work by WHO in arriving at the road maps and implementation targets for infectious diseases, from HIV, viral hepatitis, sexually transmitted infections, tuberculosis, and neglected tropical diseases, which are useful guideposts in its specificity in targeting the incidence to be decreased or services to be covered across the spectrum of care which we could draw from for our programs.

The five strategic directions are timely and relevant as the country implements its Universal Health Care Act and aligns its strategies towards the integration of health programs and policies and strengthening primary health care services that puts premium on patient care across life stages. Further, health promotion, disease prevention/ mitigation and intersectoral action are critical and should be encouraged, if not enhanced by members. Specific indicators and action points must be included, particularly in promoting healthy sexual behaviors, mitigating/ elimination of commercial factors such as transactional sexual behavior, and engaging occupational, agricultural, industrial, and home-settings to reduce contacts, exposures or mitigate risks from continued transmission of tuberculosis and neglected tropical diseases. It is also imperative that we are able to integrate provision of services for TB and neglected tropical diseases with covid-19 response activities.

For TB research, we will pursue the adoption of new technologies in both TB diagnostics and treatment regimens, and validate the results with operational research to ensure efficiency, accuracy and safety in their implementation and roll-out. We are conducting operations research on the shorter treatment regimen for Extremely Drug Resistant TB (XDR TB) (Bedaquiline, Pretomanid and Linezolid - BPaL) and will undertake research on effectiveness of various TB screening interventions. Thank you.