Health Assembly President, Director General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Fellow Ministers, Honorable delegates

The Philippines responded to the COVID-19 pandemic with a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach emphasizing quick response, resource management, and strategic communication.

To guarantee health system resiliency on the road to national recovery, the Philippines is:

- Ramping up the country’s testing capacity with increased licensed testing and mega-swabbing centers;
- Clearly defining patient pathways for both COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 patients through province and city-wide community-managed Health Care Provider networks;
- Defining the guidelines for mass repatriation and quarantine for migrant Filipinos;
- Developing guidelines on non-pharmaceutical interventions, as we transition to the “new normal”

We commend Dr. Tedros for his leadership and thank the WHO for being the primary external support for the public health and clinical management of the pandemic and for emphasizing the UN framework for socio-economic response to COVID-19. We are participating in the WHO’s Solidarity Trial using four treatment regimens.

Looking at the future, we call on the WHO to put a spotlight on the Global Code of Practice on the Recruitment of Migrant Health Workers in a pandemic. Universal health care in countries of origin, transit and destination should not leave behind the migrant populations.

We also call for sustained support for the WHO Health Emergencies Program, to help countries with weaker health systems.

And lastly, the Philippines appeals to the WHO to facilitate regional and global solutions in the procurement of PPEs, testing kits, and medical equipment in view of the global shortage.

Fellow Member States, as we fight the pandemic, you have our firm commitment to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with you in working for a safer and healthier world. Thank you.