



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

73rd World Health Assembly
9-14 November 2020 *Virtual Platform*

Pillar	1	One billion more people benefitting from universal health coverage
Agenda	11	Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board
Sub-Agenda	11.7	<i>Integrated, people-centred eye care, including preventable blindness and impaired vision</i>
Document	A73/4	Consolidated report by the Director-General: Integrated, people-centred eye care, including preventable blindness and impaired vision
Requested Action		To adopt the resolution recommended by the Executive Board in resolution EB146.R8 (<i>already adopted through Silence Procedure</i>)

Thank you, Chair.

The Philippines supports the adoption of the Resolution on integrated people-centred eye care including preventable blindness and impaired vision and thanks the authors of the resolution for taking this initiative forward.

Elevating the issue of eye health in this manner is timely indeed, particularly the link between eye-health and the achievement of the SDGs¹.

The World Report on Vision identified that cataract and refractive errors are the leading causes of blindness and visual impairment. We have seen this as well in our national context, through the 2018 Philippine National Blindness Survey and Eye Disease Study. Effective interventions are key - however access to interventions remains a challenge.

The Philippines delegation agrees that ensuring equitable access to safe, effective, quality and affordable eye care services as an integral part of Universal Health Coverage, and is addressed in our national context through the Philippine “Universal Health Care Act.” Our UHC investments are geared towards providing comprehensive eye care services, integrating eye care within local health systems and responding to emerging eye diseases such as diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma.

We look forward to further collective actions among Member States and Civil Society; with the support of the WHO, on the implementation of the recommendations from the World Report on Vision, the creation of a global research agenda on eye care, and, supplementary guidance on evidence-based and cost-effective eye care interventions and monitoring.

Thank you.

¹ SDG1, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10