



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	11.9	<i>Public health, innovation and intellectual property (medicines)</i>
Document	A73/4	Consolidated report by the Director-General ¹
Requested Action		To adopt the decision recommended by the Executive Board in decision EB146(10) <i>[Already adopted through Silence Procedure]</i>

Thank you, Chair.

The Philippines thanks the Secretariat for the review and agrees with the observations of the Expert Panel that many of the issues which prompted the crafting of the global plan of action remain to be resolved.

The Philippines passed the *Cheaper Medicines Act of 2008*, which fully reflects the instruments and flexibilities contained in the TRIPS agreement so that patients can access even high-priced medicines for the country's priority diseases. Despite its implementation, a laundry list of challenges - sustainable financing, affordability, shortages, inappropriate use, ineffective delivery, supply chain infrastructure, weak regulatory frameworks - persist in our setting.

In line with this, the Philippines would like to make the following statements:

First, we support the adoption of the decision.

Second, we support the recommendation to further build country capacity for proper implementation of IP regimes in line with TRIPS to enable Member States to make adequate use of the flexibilities.

Third, we call for the expansion of the Medicines Patent Pool to cover the scope of medicines in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines that should address these emerging challenges such as HIV/AIDS, NCDs, Hepatitis C and TB.

Fourth, we support the promotion of transparency in medicine prices and reimbursement policies including the cost of research and development and support global sharing of drug price databases and best practices in reducing out-of-pocket expenses.

Lastly, we also support the establishment of sustainable financing for the *Global Observatory on Health Research and Development* with the potential of shaping a global R&D blueprint responsive to the needs of low and middle-income countries.

Thank you.