



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

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

Pillar	2	ONE BILLION MORE PEOPLE BETTER PROTECTED FROM HEALTH EMERGENCIES
Agenda	13	Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board
Sub-Agenda	13.2	<i>WHO's work in health emergencies</i>
	14	Annual report on the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)
Document	A73/11	Report by the Director General on Public Health Preparedness and Response: WHO's work in health emergencies
Requested Action		13.2 To note this report and to adopt the draft resolution recommended by the Executive Board in resolution EB146.R10 14. To note the report

Thank you, Chair.

The Philippines supports the adoption of the resolution on this agenda item, and appreciates the updates on the progress made on WHO's work on health emergencies, as well as in the implementation of International Health Regulations 2005.

The Philippines has wide experience in dealing with typhoon and earthquakes. Hence, we appreciate the assistance it has always received from the WHO, through the Contingency Fund for Emergencies (CFE). The WHO has been one of our steady supports for immediate intervention, working in tandem with local and national authorities. Since 2018, we have been a donor to the CFE – the only donor to also be a recipient of the fund. We encourage other governments, even those with limited capacities to contribute financially, to consider supporting the CFE and the ability of the WHO to work on the ground.

If COVID19 has taught us anything, it is that there is no such thing as being prepared for everything. We can only prepare based on what we know, and we can only know what we know based on data. Governments and communities that have rooted their response on science and have acted aggressively to detect, test, contain, isolate and treat, have demonstrated better outcomes for their people and their economies. It is toward this goal - strengthening capacities, investments in systems strengthening, preparing to the extent of possible - that the Philippines directs its attention.

At the global, regional and national level, continued review, assessment of the efficacy of interventions, and constant development of new frameworks, strategies, and plans, is essential to facilitate the construction of robust and efficient preparedness and response capacities. A more active role from WHO in linking IHR National Focal Points through resource sharing and technical discussions would benefit our joint efforts in this regard.

The work of the WHO in providing technical assistance in the consolidation of scores for the indicators, and guidance in finalizing the self-assessment relative to the States Parties' self-assessment annual reporting or SPAR is acknowledged. The Philippines, since 2014, has been reporting through this tool, and we commit to continue to report through e-SPAR.



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This year, Philippine Congress is crafting legislation toward the establishment of the Philippine Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Through this new agency, we hope to better facilitate national IHR implementation, and contribute to global IHR response.