



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

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

Pillar	4	MORE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT WHO PROVIDING BETTER SUPPORT TO COUNTRIES
Agenda	23	Progress Reports
Sub-Agenda	L	<i>The WHO strategy on research for health (resolution WHA63.21 (2010))</i>
Documents	A73/32	Progress Reports
Requested Action		Note the report

Thank you, Chair.

We thank the Secretariat for their progress report on the WHO's strategy on research for health. We appreciate the updates given on the WHO's most recent initiatives related to the strategy.

Recognizing the importance of research in the development and improvement of public health delivery, the Philippines welcomes the establishment a Science Division and the Department of Research for Health, which is essential to place the role of science and research in global public health front and center. Considering this new scientific leadership in the WHO, it is an opportune time to update the strategy and draw on relevant lessons learned during this ongoing pandemic.

We note the plan to establish a new Council for Science and Innovation and enjoin low and middle income Member States to actively participate in the selection process of the Council's members. We recommend that the process be as inclusive as possible and allow for meaningful representation.

We support efforts at strengthening the field of health ethics. The Philippines has strengthened its ethical standards of research through the Single Joint Research Ethics Board. By streamlining the review process, the Board has facilitated the ethical conduct of COVID-19 clinical trials in the country. There is also an ongoing effort to establish a Public Health Ethics Committee as mandated in our Universal Health Care Act.

Lastly, we also support all inter-related Goals of the Strategy and efforts at effectively communicating research and harmonizing data sharing through digital platforms, collaborations, and partnerships. The Philippines commits to continuing national and regional efforts to contribute toward these goals.

Thank you.