REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
74th World Health Assembly
24 May -01 June 2021 *Virtual Platform*

Pillar	**1**	**Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**
Agenda	**13.4**	**Global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property**
	13.6	**Substandard and falsified medical products**
	13.7	**Standardization of medical devices nomenclature**

The Philippines fully supports the recommendations of the *Global Strategy and Plan of Action on public health, innovation and intellectual property* to prioritize research and development, build innovation capacity, promote technology transfer and strengthen country capacity in applying TRIPS flexibilities.

We also join the call of many Member States to remove the barriers in intellectual property rules that will help the international community in addressing the inequality in access to vaccines and treatments for COVID-19. We share the call of our colleagues across regions to promote the open-sharing of know-how and technology to enable our countries to end this pandemic together with global cooperation and solidarity.

The Philippines recognizes that waiving patents is only one of the many actions necessary to solve the critical shortages of vaccines and supplies for COVID-19. Bottlenecks in manufacturing, production, distribution as well as access to raw materials have been experienced by our country amid this pandemic. This strengthened our resolve to create a national roadmap for a resilient, responsive and self-reliant supply system which we hope to achieve over the next decade.

Toward this end, on the resolution calling for the strengthening local production of medicines and other health technologies, we thank Ethiopia for leading the negotiations and are glad to be listed as one of the co-sponsors. We express our interest to work with the WHO and other partners in ongoing initiatives such as the WHO COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP) and the mRNA technology transfer hub.

We also take note of the reports on substandard and falsified medical products and support the work of the Member State Mechanism to ensure the traceability of health products and continuously build the capacity of national regulatory authorities. The Philippines also commits to work with the WHO to come up with a standardized nomenclature for medical devices which will facilitate good reliance practices across member states.

Thank you, Chair.

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