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

Pillar	**1**	**ONE BILLION MORE PEOPLE BENEFITTING FROM UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE**
Agenda	**14**	**Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**
	15	**Health Workforce**
	16	**Committing to Implementation of the Global Strategy for Women's Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016-2030)**

Thank you, Chair. It is my privilege to deliver this intervention in behalf of the Philippines.

The Philippine delegation notes the Director General's report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With the COVID-19 crisis affecting the progress of our attainment of health and health-related goals, it is important that we identify resource gaps and implementation challenges, realign plans, and strengthen accountability measures among Member States. The Philippines commits to participate in the work needed to accelerate and better track our progress, as we implement Universal Health Care, implement our COVID-19 response and recovery efforts, and enhance our health information systems.

The Philippines also commits to fully support the implementation of the Global Strategy for Women's. Children's, and Adolescent's Health (2016-2030). In line with the global strategy, intense efforts have been taken to maintain essential sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health services, including immunization and nutrition due to the impact brought about by COVID-19.

The Philippines conveys its support on the endeavors conducted to review the effectiveness of Working for Health Five-Year Action Plan for Health Employment and Inclusive Economic Growth and the agreed areas of focus to prioritize interventions for nurses and midwives, including among others the significant conclusion of the following key activities: (1) extensive review of the five-year action plan as a manifestation of dedication of the experts and its distinguished representations; (2) development of the 4 key policy areas for accelerating efforts to improve nurses and midwives production, development and management; and (3) a series of substantial discussions to address the impact of COVID-19 and persistent workforce challenges. We commend the creation of the resolutions on protecting, safeguarding and investing in the health and care workforce and strengthening nursing and midwifery: investments in education, jobs, leadership and service delivery.

Finally, we express our highest and utmost recognition for the invaluable contribution and continued fight of our health workers to win against the COVID-19 despite the evolving challenges they are confronting during the pandemic. As such, we underscore the significance of coordinated efforts amongst member countries for sharing of data and resources including technical assistance for latest scientific approaches to combat the pandemic and advocate for equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines for priority health workers and their families and vulnerable population, including the sustained and dedicated investments for all pipeline programs for health workers.

Thank you.