REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

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Pillar	**2**	**ONE BILLION MORE PEOPLE BETTER PROTECTED FROM HEALTH EMERGENCIES**
Agenda	**19** **20** **21**	**The public health implications of implementation of the Nagoya Protocol** **Enhancement of laboratory safety** **Poliomyelitis**
Subagenda		***Polio eradication*** ***Polio transition planning and polio post-certification***

Thank you, Madame Chair. Thank you Madame Moderator.

With recognition of the global public health benefit of timely generation and sharing of sequencing data highlighted by COVID-19 pandemic, Philippines joins efforts to build capacities for genomic surveillance to contribute to global monitoring of pathogen lineages and their potential use in diagnostics, vaccines, therapeutics and understanding transmission patterns.

We initiated biosurveillance for SARS-CoV-2 which guided public health interventions. Collaboration with international partners enabled capacity for genomics in the national AMR surveillance. We also contributed to genomic databases of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and influenza.

We urge and support the continuation of work on the Nagoya Protocol to provide additional transparency, equity, clarity and consistency in pathogen-sharing practices and associated equitable benefit-sharing arrangements globally, to increase capacity worldwide for genomics and to ensure timely data sharing on emerging dangerous diseases.

Towards local enhancement of laboratory biosafety practices, standards on lab biosafety practices were set and key trainings, including on Biorisk Management for COVID-19 laboratories and Biorisk Management for Polio, have been established and conducted.

The Philippines acknowledges the important role of a regulatory body in implementing and monitoring compliance to biosafety standards. We foresee that reporting of lab acquired infections, incident and accidents to a national regulatory body may drive improvement in lab biosafety practices. Thus, we welcome provision of any additional guidance on national reporting considered pertinent in respect to the enhancement of laboratory biosafety.

The Philippines concurs with the report on the challenges faced in polio eradication during the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the challenges, the Philippines has successfully conducted polio supplemental immunization activities with a coverage of 87%. The country has enhanced surveillance for polio cases by providing Acute Flaccid Paralysis Surveillance Officers (AFPSO), expanding sites for environmental surveillance, and intensifying reporting of cases, among others, and has comprehensively engaged communities including increased mass media and social media presence. The Philippines is committed to intensify its efforts to close the polio outbreak in the country and would welcome deliberations on the best way to support the implementation of polio transition activities within the context of COVID-19.

Thank you Madame Chair.