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

Pillar	**3**	**ONE BILLION MORE PEOPLE ENJOYING BETTER HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**
Agenda	**22.1**	**Social determinants of health**
	23	**WHO global plan of action to strengthen the role of the health system within a national multisectoral response to address interpersonal violence, in particular against women and girls, and against children**

Thank you, Chair.

The Philippine delegation congratulates the Director General for the initiative to come up with an integrative report on Social Determinants of Health, and a Global Plan of Action for addressing interpersonal violence, against women and girls and children.

We reaffirm the global commitment of the Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants of Health.

The need whole-of-society and whole-of government approaches to public health have been most clearly demonstrated in the experience with COVID-19. Landmark legislation was passed to increase budgets for health interventions and to fund social amelioration programs for the most vulnerable sectors. Through interagency governance mechanisms and multisectoral collaboration, a wide range of interventions were implemented to mitigate the health and socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic. Policies on prevention, detection, isolation, treatment and reintegration followed the principles of shared accountability, evidence-based decision making, socioeconomic equity and a rights-based approach. Adaptive plans were implemented to ensure that vulnerable sectors had access to continuous essential health services, including mental health, reproductive health, protection against interpersonal violence, among others. Health promotion campaigns also aimed to empower communities and workplaces to make informed decisions for their health, and to adhere to minimum public health standards.

Addressing social determinants of health continues to be a priority for pandemic response and for recovery efforts- including the COVID-19 vaccination program, in line with the established prioritization framework. In the medium and long-term, health promotion will remain a key component of our implementation of UHC, and in institutionalizing Primary Care, Healthy Settings, Disease Surveillance, and Health Emergency Preparedness.

On the Global Plan of Action to address interpersonal violence, we commit to the implementation of the recommended evidence-based approaches for strengthening health governance, expanding health service delivery and health workers' capacity, strengthening programming against interpersonal violence, and improving information and evidence.

We appreciate the Secretariat's continued technical guidance and support in the development of various governance measures in the area of Universal Health Care, COVID-19, and women and child protection programs.

Thank you, Chair.