



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
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Thank you, Chair.

First, The Philippines conveys its full support for the implementation of the Immunization Agenda 2030 and renews its commitment on achieving significant coverage for essential vaccines in childhood and adolescence, and on reducing the number of children missing out on vaccines. In the context of the ongoing pandemic, we remain committed to immunizing our nation against COVID-19, while at the same time addressing equity issues among our communities, recognizing the need to manufacture new vaccines. In addressing immunization deficits, we reiterate the importance of restoring routine immunization and necessary mass vaccination campaigns even during this pandemic. As nations reopen and loosen their restrictions on public movement, we reiterate the call for strengthened collaboration between Member States and partners to implement global, regional and national strategies towards the realization of the goals of the Immunization Agenda 2030.

The Philippines also recognizes that a global strategy shall provide a clear direction to all Member States in attaining substantial progress in the prevention and reduction of infection in healthcare settings. In recognition of the difficulties endured by our healthcare system during the COVID19 pandemic, the Philippines has pledged its co-sponsorship of the draft resolution for this Global Strategy and its commitment to the activities and processes that shall support IPC policies at all levels of the healthcare system. We urge member states to take steps to support and to ensure that infection prevention and control is one of the key components of global health preparedness, prevention and response; and to acknowledge that clean, high-quality, safe, affordable care should be universally available and that no one should be unnecessarily exposed to infection due to suboptimal infection prevention and control practices in different settings.

Regarding the Global Roadmap on defeating meningitis, the Philippines agrees with the creation and establishment of a strategic support group to help WHO and its partners in the global and regional implementation of the global road map in defeating meningitis and the achievement of its objectives. Under the Universal Health Care Act, we are focused on integrating policies on health services across different life stages, from health promotion, disease prevention, screening, and treatment of diseases at the level of primary care, and veering away from treating meningitis as a singular vertical disease. We take this opportunity as an avenue to update country specific implementation framework and Action Plans integrating strategies to address Meningitis under the broader agenda of eliminating vaccine preventable diseases, and in Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases.