



**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
**76<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly**  
**21 May - 30 May 2023 • Geneva, Switzerland**

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| <b>Agenda</b> | <b>13.3</b> | <b>Substandard and falsified medical products</b>                |
|               | <b>13.4</b> | <b>Strengthening rehabilitation in health systems</b>            |
|               | <b>13.5</b> | <b>Draft global strategy on infection prevention and control</b> |

**Requested Action:** Adopt the decision of the Executive Board on the following: (1) Strengthening rehabilitation in health systems including new rehabilitation needs emerging from infectious diseases such as COVID-19; (2) to request the DG to facilitate the conduct of an independent evaluation of Member State mechanism on substandard and falsified products; and (3) to request the Secretariat to continue facilitating the consultation on the draft WHO Global Strategy on Infection Prevention and Control to enable its adoption during WHA76.

The Philippines supports adopting the decision to strengthen rehabilitation in health systems due to the increasing need for rehabilitation of the aging population and the rise of the prevalence of non-communicable diseases and catastrophic diseases such as cancer. We recognize that rehabilitation needs cut across various age groups and disabilities, and request further development of integrated set of guidance and a menu of evidence-based interventions to enable implementation of rehabilitation strategies, especially at the subnational level because most rehabilitation efforts happen in the communities. There is also a need for integrated guidance for community-based rehabilitation interventions targeted towards children and young adults, with specific menu of actions including for learning and social disabilities, mental health, and substance abuse.

The Philippines has been advancing actions to promote accessibility since 1992 through the Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities, including creating the Resource Stratification Framework for Rehabilitation Medicine setting the service requirements for different levels of the healthcare system, establishing social health insurance benefits for rehabilitation sessions and persons with disabilities, and started implementing various community based rehabilitation programs. We also

advocate for affordable and equitable access to innovations in assistive devices, including the need to tailor functions and design according to national culture and contexts, especially for low- and middle-income countries.

The Philippines also fully supports the adoption of a Global Strategy on Infection Prevention and Control. COVID-19 underscored the importance of preventing and controlling the spread of infections. The rise of resistant pathogens can strain the already dwindling antimicrobial options available. Good infection prevention and control practices are necessary to mitigate the emergence and spread of infections, including drug-resistant ones.

Likewise, we join the decision to request the conduct of independent evaluation of Member State mechanisms on substandard and falsified products. Such exercise would strengthen national mechanisms in monitoring the distribution and sale of medical products by building evidence necessary for enhancement and development of new regulatory policies and collaborative approaches.

Thank you.**END**