



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

<b>Agenda</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>Poliomyelitis eradication Polio transition planning and polio post-certification</b>
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**Requested Action:**

- On polio elimination: (a) What measures should be adopted to ensure that all remaining zero-dose children in the most consequential geographies are reached with oral polio vaccine, amid broader humanitarian emergencies affecting these areas? (b) What steps should be taken to ensure that the financial resources required to fully implement the Polio Eradication Strategy 2022–2026 are mobilized, including to rapidly operationalize pledges, and mobilize additional commitments through international and national resources?
- Polio transition planning and post certification: (1) What are the key priorities on which the post-2023 polio transition global vision should be based? (2) What should be the focus areas of the post-2023 regional action plans for polio transition and integration?

Thank you chair.

The Philippines have made significant progress in polio eradication and is currently in line with the global Polio Eradication Strategy 2022-2026. We have improved our surveillance mechanisms for acute flaccid paralysis and are enhancing wastewater surveillance to detect viral shedding for polio. We appreciate the continued assistance of the Secretariat in local verification efforts, and requests revisiting certification aspects for easier implementation in the country.

The Philippines fully support the shift to inactivated polio vaccine and have planned our full transition to IPV by 2025. This is in recognition of local serotype assessments and the risk of shedding with oral polio vaccines, also prompting shifts from trivalent to bivalent vaccines. However, the shift to IPV entails a significant national investment since OPV is significantly cheaper in the local market. There will be a need to assist Low and Middle Income Countries in getting relevant supplies for equitable polio eradication and facilitating global policy environments to ensure

affordable access to these essential commodities.

To facilitate the transition, the WHO will need to develop technical guidance for Member States that will include risk communication strategies especially on concerns regarding mucosal immunity, and waste management guidelines specifically on the future need for destruction of live attenuated oral polio vaccines.

It is also imperative to develop interventions to address vaccine hesitancy, misinformation, and disinformation which may require a global response and strategy. For instance, this has drastically affected the national immunization program efforts in the Philippines, and has led to decreased vaccine uptake, reduced trust in healthcare providers, and increased disease transmission.

The Philippines recommends integrating guidance across all elimination efforts to aid in local implementation. The Philippines is exploring development of a multi-disease elimination plans for polio, measles, rubella, malaria, rabies, and other diseases consistent with WHO targets - recognizing similarities in interventions such as immunization, surveillance of vaccine preventable diseases, and health emergency response. A health systems strengthening approach will lead to greater efficiency gains and improved health outcomes.

Thank you.**END**