



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

<b>Agenda</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>Well-being and health promotion</b>
	<b>16.2</b>	<b>Ending violence against children through health systems strengthening and multisectoral approaches</b>
	<b>16.3</b>	<b>Social determinants of health</b>
	<b>16.5</b>	<b>United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025)</b>

Thank you, Chair.

The Philippines supports the adoption of the resolution on *Accelerating Efforts for Preventing Micronutrient Deficiencies and their Consequences, including Spina Bifida and other Neural Tube Defects*, through Safe and Effective Food Fortification; and welcomes the draft global framework for achieving well-being.

These are in line with the Philippines' Universal Health Care Act and expanded mandate for health promotion to address Social Determinants of Health through legislation and multisectoral stewardship, and increased recognition of the impact of food systems pathway in identifying public health interventions to address malnutrition — recognizing that the food supply, food environment, and food consumption pillars are entry points for complementary efforts of continued health and nutrition service delivery.

The Philippines' high level commitment to nutrition are manifested through national legislations such as the Salt Law, Food Fortification Law, Consumer Act, which establish standards for identify and quality of food and other goods, and an Executive Order for a National Food Fortication Day.

The Secretariat is requested to consider increasing support for research and technical guidance for fortification of staple foods and ensuring affordability to increase public access, especially on strategies to ethically but effectively conduct public and private partnerships to realize fortification efforts.

The Philippines is also committed to work on Trans Fat Elimination with the issuance of the National Policy on the Elimination of Industrially-Produced Trans Fatty Acids from the Nation's Food Supply which directs food establishments to reformulate their food products without Trans Fat. We have likewise spearheaded several initiatives for the promotion of physical activity, active transport, and green and open spaces to ensure health and wellbeing. The involvement of the environment, tourism, transport, public works, local government sectors, and civil society have been crucial in forwarding such initiatives.

Lastly, the Philippines recognizes violence and injuries, especially gender-based and those inflicted against children and women, as important health determinants. We are integrating principles and components of violence and injury prevention in key settings-based interventions in schools, workplaces, and communities and scaling-up social and behavior change communication and advocacy campaigns to promote safe spaces for all regardless of age, sex, and gender. Global collaboration is necessary to prevent and address exploitation and abuse especially in low and middle countries. Improvements in how we collect, analyze, and share relevant data would be crucial for policy development and program implementation. While the WHO's guidance documents on violence against children and women are welcome, we request the Secretariat to develop a menu of interventions especially targeted for non-health actors.**END**