



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

<b>Agenda</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>The highest attainable standard of health for persons with disabilities</b>
	<b>16.6</b>	<b>Behavioural sciences for better health</b>

The Philippines appreciates the WHO Global Report on Health Equity for persons with Disabilities and affirms a strong commitment to support its implementation as a comprehensive range of strategies and initiatives for the better health of people with disability. We have taken structural actions to promote accessibility since the passage of the 1992 Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities. However, we recognize that more needs to be done globally especially in promoting affordable and equitable access to essential innovations such as for assistive devices for health and rehabilitation in low and middle income countries, especially those which may need to be custom made and for children. We also request the WHO to develop evidence-based normative guidance and a menu of interventions to enable countries to provide financial risk protection for persons with disabilities, not just for components of service coverage but also for indirect costs which may include social protection programs and reasonable accommodations.

The Philippines also strongly supports the adoption of the resolution on behavioral sciences for better health. This is in line with the Philippines' Universal Health Care Act and expanded mandate for health promotion. The Philippines' Health Promotion Framework Strategy has been developed to provide a roadmap for the integration of behavioral science in health interventions and policies. From our national experiences and learnings, we underscore that there must always be a conscious effort to integrate behavioral science in nutrition and physical activity; environmental health; immunization; tobacco prevention and control, alcohol control, and drug use prevention; mental health; sexual and reproductive health; and violence and injury prevention. Adopting the WHO's settings-based approach to strategically implement said measures in schools, workplaces, and communities will

help Member States to comprehensively deliver evidence-based behavior change interventions for target populations.

Thank you, Chair.**END**