



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

77th World Health Assembly
Geneva, Switzerland / 27 May 2024

Agenda	11.1	Universal health coverage
	11.2	Follow-up to the political declaration of the 3rd high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of NCDs

The Philippines is dedicated to advancing universal health coverage and addressing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in line with Sustainable Development Goals 3.4. We strongly support the Resolution on institutionalizing social participation for health and well-being, led by Slovenia and Thailand.

Achieving UHC faces challenges in financing, workforce development, and integrating primary health care (PHC). NCDs like cancer and mental health issues exacerbate these challenges, with current systems struggling to provide equitable access and financial protection, particularly for vulnerable populations.

The Philippines propose strengthening PHC by reorienting health professional training towards primary care, enhancing capacity building, and developing integrated care networks. Key initiatives include expanding educational opportunities, implementing competitive salaries and career development policies, and enhancing health financing through innovative mechanisms like health impact bonds and expanded insurance benefits. Integrating essential NCD interventions into PHC and leveraging technology and international collaboration will optimize efficiency and address major health burdens.

These interventions are expected to lead to more equitable and efficient health systems, improved financial protection, and better health outcomes. Strengthening PHC will make essential services more accessible and reduce the burden on secondary care. Enhanced workforce capacity and better financing will improve healthcare quality and accessibility, particularly for vulnerable groups, while effective NCD management and mental health services will significantly reduce mortality and morbidity.

We urge Member States and the Secretariat to prioritize and support these interventions. Increased investment in health financing and workforce development, coupled with international collaboration,

is crucial. We advocate for developing a global strategy for integrated emergency, critical, and operative care for 2026-2035 and supporting resolutions on social participation and mental health support. Implementing comprehensive UHC policies and strengthening health systems are pivotal for achieving inclusive progress toward health equity and improved global health outcomes.