



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

77th World Health Assembly
Geneva, Switzerland / 27 May - 01 June 01 2024

Agenda	13.4	Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response
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The essence of the World coming together as one to fight a common enemy – Pandemics – should be enshrined in stronger provisions stipulating concrete actions and the highest level of commitment. My delegation, therefore, aligns with Member States that manifested a firm conviction that a Pandemic Agreement will give the World a better chance of changing the status quo and protecting humanity.

We commend the Bureau and the Secretariat for the hard work. We note the Bureau's noble but difficult task of listening to all Member States all throughout the INB Process since 2021 to help ensure that all nations and communities are better prepared to predict, prevent, assess and to prepare to effectively respond to pandemics in a highly coordinated fashion. However, we have to implement the appropriate modality that itself espouses and operationalizes equity and inclusivity.

The Philippines strongly believes that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body needs an extension of mandate in order to ensure that the consensus on the language of the Pandemic Agreement will operationalize equity as its strongest dimension and prominent trademark. The World would benefit more if the Member States are given more time to think and work through the contentious paragraphs and ensure that the provisions really change the status quo in terms of equitable access to countermeasures during pandemic times. To ensure inclusivity and that no one is left behind, we also request the Secretariat to ensure the active involvement of the Regional Offices to ensure that all Member States are appropriately consulted and represented throughout the process of arriving at a unified Agreement that will benefit all Member States.

The proposal to establish a drafting group for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body and the Working Group on Amendments to the IHR is realistic, pragmatic and urgent. The Philippines is flexible with the modalities of the continued work and we commit to actively engage in succeeding drafting group actions. Of utmost importance is that we all constructively engage to continue and

build on the gains achieved in the last two years. We will continue to be supportive of the general positions of developing Member States while embracing our role as a bridge-builder.