



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

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

Philippine national statement on “All for Health, Health for All”

delivered by Dr. TEODORO J. HERBOSA
Secretary of Health

Excellencies,

The Philippines joins this Assembly with a firm conviction that "All for Health" and "Health for All" are attainable through our unwavering commitment to equity, solidarity, and our shared humanity.

This Assembly marks a historic moment, with an agenda filled with the critical elements we need to achieve a paradigm shift towards “Health for All”, including the Pandemic Agreement, the Amendments to the IHR, and the Fourteenth General Programme of Work.

GPW 14 serves as our guiding compass, empowering the WHO to accelerate access to essential health services, especially for those who are marginalized. This framework is key to our fulfillment of our obligation as WHO Member States in leading global health governance and aligning social and economic policies with a focus on both human and planetary health.

However, the realization of GPW14 hinges upon consistent and sustainable financing for WHO. Thus, the Philippines proudly pledges to continue providing voluntary contributions and to remain a committed donor to the Contingency Fund for Emergencies, demonstrating that developing countries can substantially contribute to global health efforts.

“All for Health” and “Health for All” embodies our collective commitment to protect every person’s fundamental human right to reach and maintain the highest attainable level of health

without fear of financial hardship or discrimination. Our Universal Health Care Law, founded on primary health care, fuels the Philippines' dedication to social justice and equity.

The Philippines' Health Sector Medium-term Agenda, our President's 8-Point Action Agenda, and the PH-UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework reinforce our dedication to UHC, emphasizing disease prevention, resilient health systems, and health literacy. Under the banner of "Modernization for Health Equity," we strive to bridge healthcare disparities through enhanced infrastructure and services.

Moreover, we champion international efforts for a sustainable health workforce, which shall be the Philippine's contribution to the worldwide health system, exemplified by our side event on health workforce migration at the margins of WHA77.

We advocate support for a Pandemic Agreement that will operationalize equity, recognizing that our common resolve to change the status quo rests on addressing vulnerabilities. We laud esteemed representatives who have tirelessly negotiated a legally binding agreement that will save millions of lives during future Pandemics.

We uphold the principles of the United Nations in ensuring that the international system remains fair and conducive for effective global health governance. In addressing our common concerns on public health and safety, we must be reminded of its intricate link with peace and security, as well as other aspects of life. The Philippines is ready to take on a bigger role and share its experiences and approaches with the international community. Our unwavering commitment to multilateralism is fully expressed in our bid for a seat in the WHO Executive Board in 2025, and a non-permanent seat in the UN Security Council for 2027-2028. Once elected, we will serve our duty with a deep dedication to a peaceful, just and equitable international order that is key to the flourishing of each of our nation's aspirations for our peoples, including the attainment of health for all.

It is our hope that the spirit of Geneva, the spirit of consensus, lives in all of us. Achieving health for all can be done if we are all together, guided by the principles of equity, solidarity and peace.

Thank you.