



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
79th Session of the World Health Assembly (WHA 79)
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Agenda 12.1 Follow-up to the Political declaration of the High-level meeting of the General
Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable diseases
and 12.2 Mental health

The Philippines welcomes the Director-General's report and reaffirms its commitment to advancing the global response to noncommunicable diseases and mental health. We support the adoption of the decisions and resolutions recommended by the Executive Board and we take note of the reports.

NCDs remain a major public health and development challenge in the Philippines, driving premature mortality and straining families and health systems. To address this, we continue to strengthen the Philippine Package of Essential Noncommunicable Disease Interventions, or PhilPEN, as our primary care platform for integrated risk assessment, early detection, standardized treatment, referral, and monitoring of priority NCDs. We are also scaling up cardiovascular disease prevention through Proteksyon Para sa Altapresyon, our national hypertension prevention and control initiative.

Sustainable financing is essential to translate political commitments into accessible, quality NCD services. In this regard, the Philippines is honored to host the Third International Dialogue on Sustainable Financing for NCDs and Mental Health in Manila in September 2026. We call for continued technical cooperation to strengthen primary care, access to essential medicines and technologies, health information systems, and accountability mechanisms.

On mental health, the Philippines underscores that mental well-being is inseparable from overall health. We emphasize the need for community-based mental healthcare as the foundation of a responsive and inclusive mental health system. Services must be accessible, affordable, and culturally appropriate, particularly for vulnerable and underserved populations.

We support whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to address the social and structural determinants of mental health. Education, social protection, housing, employment, and community engagement all play critical roles. We also highlight the importance of sustained financing, integration of mental health into primary healthcare and universal health coverage, and strengthened mental health data systems to guide evidence-based policy and programming.

The Philippines remains committed to working with the Secretariat and Member States to advance equitable, integrated, and sustainable approaches to NCDs and mental health, ensuring that no one is left behind. Thank you.