



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
79th World Health Assembly
18-23 May 2026 / Geneva, Switzerland

**Agenda 13.1 and 13.2 Report of the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee
for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme and Implementation of the International
Health Regulations (2005)**

The Philippines notes with appreciation these reports.

Ongoing health events demonstrate our shared vulnerabilities, underscoring the absolute necessity of the IHR and a sustainable health emergencies program. Pathogens know no borders, demanding robust collaboration focused on human welfare beyond case counts.

To sustainably implement the IHR, States Parties must ensure health systems are resilient enough to adapt to evolving risks. The Philippines emphasizes two key areas:

- First, all States Parties should consider standing recommendations on Mpox and COVID-19, leveraging hard-won lessons for preparing, preventing, and responding to threats.
- Second, for States Parties where the 2024 amendments are pending domestic procedures, like the Philippines, we must still actively prepare our systems. We must improve IHR implementation and emergency readiness by developing clear roadmaps, policies, and multisectoral national action plans for health security.

Furthermore, high-level political commitment is essential, as sustainable implementation cannot be achieved by health ministries in isolation. We urge the Secretariat to package impactful advocacy materials showing global leaders exactly how these multilateral frameworks protect everyday lives.

This, we hope, will result in consistent support to guarantee global emergency readiness, ensuring timely and effective responses characterized not merely by speed, but by profound equity, seamless multisectoral coordination, and predictable resourcing.

Thank you, Chair.