



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
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Agenda 13.3 Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the WHO Pandemic Agreement

Chair, the Philippines welcomes the progress detailed in document A79/8 and reaffirms its commitment to a robust WHO Pandemic Agreement. We strongly support the decision for the IGWG to continue its work as mandated, prioritizing the finalization of the PABS Annex.

For our delegation, the PABS System must remain anchored on two equal pillars: the rapid sharing of pathogens and the fair, equitable sharing of benefits. Equity cannot be a mere secondary consideration; it must be operationalized through legally binding contracts with the WHO to ensure that developing nations receive real-time access to vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics.

We acknowledge the structural progress made in discussing the WHO Coordinated Laboratory Network and the recognition of sequence databases. However, we emphasize that such systems must respect the sovereign rights of States over their biological resources and protect the traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples.

The Philippines stands ready to conclude these negotiations as soon as possible in order to open the Pandemic Agreement for signature.

Thank you.