



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
79th World Health Assembly
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Agenda 15.1, Strengthening rehabilitation in health systems
15.3. The health of Indigenous Peoples and 15.4
Maternal, infant and young child nutrition

Thank you, Chair.

The Philippines notes the report on strengthening rehabilitation in health systems and underscores its importance in advancing equitable and people-centered care. Rehabilitation is increasingly vital in our context, given the rising burden of noncommunicable diseases such as diabetes mellitus and hypertension, which contribute significantly to disability and long-term functional limitations. Addressing these outcomes remains a priority under our national 8 Point Action Agenda for Health.

We continue to face shortages in the allied health workforce. In response, the Philippines is expanding service delivery through urgent care and ambulatory service centers, and through community-based health teams that strengthen access to integrated primary care, including rehabilitation. We support the integration of rehabilitation across all levels of care and into public health and emergency preparedness, and we emphasize the need for feasible, context-appropriate indicators through a phased approach.

On Agenda 15.3, the Philippines welcomes the decision to defer the Global Plan of Action for the Health of Indigenous Peoples to allow broader and more meaningful consultations. Nationally, we advance this agenda through a rights-based framework anchored on the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act and the Universal Health Care Act. We prioritize Indigenous leadership in planning and monitoring, strengthen primary health care in underserved areas, expand financial protection, and institutionalize cultural competency in health services.

On maternal, infant, and young child nutrition, the Philippines reaffirms its commitment to national and global nutrition targets. We highlight the First 1,000 Days Act, expanded benefit packages, and strengthened domestic financing. We call for stronger global regulation of digital advertising for breast-milk substitutes and strict enforcement of the International Code.

The Philippines remains steadfast in advancing equity, inclusion, and improved health outcomes for all.