



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

79th World Health Assembly

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NATIONAL STATEMENT

Delivered by Dr. Teodoro J. Herbosa, Secretary of Health

We keep hoping for the goodness of humanity in a fragmented world. Solidarity, or “*bayanihan*”, saves lives. One year ago, at this very Assembly, the Philippines joined calls to uphold multilateralism. Today, that message remains urgent.

Amid geopolitical tensions, climate-related crises, widening inequalities, and persistent and emerging health threats, the Philippines reaffirms its steadfast trust and confidence in the World Health Organization as the indispensable pillar of global health cooperation.

As an expression of this commitment, the Philippines continues to strengthen regional and South-South collaboration. Through the Philippine-Pacific Health Initiative, we foster technical cooperation and solidarity with our Pacific neighbors in addressing shared health challenges. Our seas do not divide us; instead, the waters unite us.

As we move forward, we must sustain momentum in addressing longstanding and emerging challenges, including noncommunicable diseases, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, climate-sensitive health risks, inequities in access to health care, and the continuing global health workforce crisis. We must likewise strengthen collective efforts to end violence against children.

In this spirit, the Philippines is honored to invite all Member States to Manila for two important global gatherings this year:

- a. The 3rd International Dialogue on Sustainable Financing for Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health, from September 2 to 4; and
- b. The 2nd Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children, from November 18 to 19.

Excellencies: health is not merely a national concern, but a shared global responsibility. Disease knows no borders. We can and should build bridges for one another. Together, let us ensure that the World Health Organization continues to remain a beacon of hope for generations to come.

Maraming salamat!