Agenda item 16: 
**Social Determinants of Health**

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**PROPOSED ACTIONS:**

The Director-General will submit a report on addressing social determinants of health, namely, the conditions in which people grow, learn, live, work and age that have negative consequences on many health outcomes and on health equity, as illustrated by COVID-19. The Board will be invited to note the report and provide further guidance.

**PHILIPPINE INTERVENTION:**

Thank you, Chair.

The Philippines affirms commitment to reduce health inequities through actions to improve the social determinants of health. The conditions in which we live, learn and work, however, are not solved by actions in the health sector alone. All sectors, including economy, education, workplace, climate action, and many others need to come together holistically to improve health outcomes. The WHO’s support in developing national work plans, and recommending measures to address equity and monitor impact, has been useful.

COVID-19 is a test case of the implementation of Universal Health Care during a pandemic. It exposed the gaps and deficiencies in the health systems, and disproportionately affected the marginalized populations. Regional and global collaboration to improve logistics and supply chain management for COVID-19 vaccines will help ensure that groups with high vulnerability due to underlying societal, geographic, and biomedical factors are provided with COVID-19 vaccination.

Primary care has a pivotal role in achieving UHC as the point of integration of clinical, behavioral and community based healthcare services. It is also the foundation for empowering people to be active partners in their own health care.

The Philippines adopted the following strategies to support actions on Social Determinants of Health:

1. Passage of a Universal Health Care Law, which assures 100 percent population coverage through social health insurance with automatic entitlement and subsidy for the poor;
2. Health Impact Assessment using the social determinants of health framework; and
3. Intensified focus on healthy communities, schools and workplaces by promoting health literacy.

The Philippines looks forward to opportunities for active participation in the development of the framework for implementation of WHO’s work on the goal of better health and well-being.

Thank you.