**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**

148th Session of the WHO Executive Board
Virtual Platform  18-26 January 2021

Agenda item 6:
**Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases / Oral Health**

Document EB148/7 Add.1 / EB148/7 Add.2 / EB148/8

**PROPOSED ACTIONS:**

- The Board will be invited to note the report and adopt the annexes on the progress achieved in the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases and the promotion of mental health.
- The Board will be invited to note the report and provide guidance on the way forward on the challenges to global public health posed by oral diseases, recent oral health activities of the Secretariat, and actions towards better oral health by 2030 as part of the work on noncommunicable diseases and universal health coverage.

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**PHILIPPINE INTERVENTION:**

Thank you, Chair.

The Philippines is grateful for the Secretariat’s support in developing and strengthening policies, standards and capacities in addressing NCDs. We appreciate the utility of the global and regional action plans on NCDs in crafting and implementing national strategies.

We would like to emphasize that the prevention and control of modifiable and behavioral NCD risk factors is crucial in ensuring better oral health. Strengthening NCD-related interventions to prevent development of disease and its complications, will result to a decrease in both premature deaths and incidence of oral diseases.

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Philippines is committed to implementing cost-effective interventions to address common risk factors namely tobacco and alcohol use, unhealthy diet, among others. We strengthened advocacy on taxes and other deterrents on unhealthy products, as well as health promotion to make NCD services accessible in primary care settings.

As people living with NCDs are at higher risk of contracting and developing severe cases of COVID-19, the Philippines issued several interim guidelines in the context of COVID-19 pandemic, particularly on cancer, essential health services, health facilities, dialysis facilities, tobacco control, nutrition services, and mental health and psychosocial support.

The Philippines is committed to sustaining current efforts and developing innovative ones to address NCDs and oral health. We believe that it is imperative to strengthen support to systems of multisectoral collaboration for NCD services for all people, at all ages, from prevention, management and even long-term care.

Thank you.