

As delivered:

## **JOINT STATEMENT OF THE GROUP FOR EQUITY**

Delivered by Amb. Evan P. Garcia  
at the Plenary of the INB5 Resumed Session and Drafting Group Meeting

*WHO Headquarters, 12 June 2023*

The Philippines delivers this statement today, which happens to be the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Philippine Independence, on behalf of the Group for Equity in the WHO CA+ composed of Member States including Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, Tanzania and Thailand.<sup>1</sup>

The Group for Equity conveys its appreciation for the Bureau's work in preparing the proposed Bureau's Text with the aim of bringing Member States closer to be able to agree on a first draft of the CA+, keeping in view the mandate and the short timeline of the INB.

We express our abiding commitment to the success of the INB process with the support of the Bureau, all Member States, stakeholders and the WHO Secretariat.

We recognize the enormous effort needed to take into account the numerous inputs and different positions conveyed in the discussions as reflected in the Compilation Text. While the provision of options in the Bureau's Text, gives a broad overview of different approaches Member States may wish to adopt, we believe that proposals contained in the Compilation Text will continue to make it a valuable guide and reference for our future discussions.

To this end, we are prepared to work with all Member States to further strengthen the Bureau's Text without prejudice to referencing proposals previously made in the Compilation Text when and where they are appropriate.

We take this opportunity to express our full support to ensuring that the INB process results in a WHO CA+ that is just, fair and cognizant of the circumstances faced by developing Member States. We are firm in our view that this can only be achieved through concrete provisions that effectively operationalize Equity.

We are also mindful that technical solutions and approaches will be critical to ensuring Equity is operationalized in a meaningful way through the text. But we are of the firm view that all Member States need to demonstrate political will and commitment to achieve equity through the accord.

We look forward to a productive week and we hope that discussions lead us closer to our common goal.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> Argentina and Iran associated with the statement from the floor.