

PRESS RELEASE

Philippine Mission to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva

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PH PUSHES FOR EQUITY, MIGRANTS & HEALTH WORKERS RIGHTS IN WHO MEETING ON PROPOSED PANDEMIC TREATY



The Philippine delegation to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body on the Pandemic Instrument composed of Usec. Kenneth Ronquillo, DOH (rightmost), Usec. Beverly Ho, DOH (2nd from left), Asec. Cheryl Ontalan, DOH (2nd from right), and Mr. Jeff Valdez of the Philippine Permanent Mission in Geneva (leftmost) is joined by WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus at the WHO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

12 December 2022, Geneva – The Philippine delegation advocated for stronger measures to ensure that the proposed pandemic instrument is equitable and would result in the better management of future pandemics, especially for developing countries during the *3rd Meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) to draft and negotiate a convention, agreement or other international instrument under the Constitution of the World Health Organization to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response* held on 5-7 December 2022 at the WHO Headquarters.

In his opening statement, DOH Undersecretary Kenneth Ronquillo underscored the Philippines' high-level political commitment to the global accord as it is aligned with the government's priorities including "strengthening healthcare capacity, providing enhanced and flexible emergency measures through legislation, and developing a comprehensive pandemic response framework."

Aside from echoing the call of developing member states for equity including with respect to access to vaccines and other countermeasures, the Philippines in particular recommended stronger language on ensuring that migrants, refugees and other vulnerable groups are

equally protected from pandemics and that countries invest in the training and welfare of health workers to ensure supply during public health emergencies.

The INB is an ongoing process expected to culminate in the adoption of a global pandemic instrument under the WHO Constitution by May 2024. **END**