



## PRESS RELEASE

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

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## PHILIPPINES AND WHO CONTINUE PREPARATIONS FOR HISTORIC PRESIDENCY OF WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY



*WHO Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and Ambassador Carlos D. Sorreta, Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva discuss plans for the upcoming 78th World Health Assembly on 10 April 2025. Photo courtesy of WHO.*

10 April 2025, Geneva – Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus reiterated the commitment of the World Health Organization to support the incoming Presidency of Department of Health Secretary Teodoro J. Herbosa, Jr. of the 78<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Health Assembly WHA78 to be held on 19-27 May 2025.

In a meeting at the WHO Headquarters in Geneva today, Dr Tedros and Ambassador Carlos D. Sorreta exchanged views on how to ensure that WHA78 results in meaningful outcomes during a very challenging period for the Organization composed of almost 200 Member States.

WHA78 is expected to adopt a significantly reduced budget following the withdrawal of the United States, and a historic Pandemic Agreement following 3 years of negotiations, among others.

“We welcome and appreciate the WHO’s strong support for the incoming Presidency of DOH Secretary Herbosa,” Ambassador Sorreta said. “Preparations have been underway for several months now and Dr Tedros himself shared his thoughts on how to deliver optimum outcomes,” he added.

[TEDROS QUOTE]

The World Health Assembly is the highest decision-making body of the WHO. The incoming Presidency of Secretary Herbosa is the first for a Filipino Health Secretary.



*Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and Ambassador Carlos D. Sorreta followed by GBS Acting Director Gaudenz Silberschmidt, First Secretary Jeff Valdez and Ms Aleksandra Kuzmanovic, WHO Social Media Manager (partly covered) at the WHO Headquarters following a meeting on 10 April 2025.*

**END**