

PRESS RELEASE

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

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PH REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO PATIENT SAFETY AT MONTREUX MINISTERIAL SUMMIT



Department of Health (DOH) Officer-in-Charge Dr. Rosario Singh-Vergeire (4th from left, second row) together with other Ministers of Health during the 5th Global Ministerial Summit on Patient Safety held from 23 to 24 February 2023 in Montreux, Switzerland.

Montreux, 24 February 2023 – Department of Health (DOH) Officer-in-Charge (OIC) Secretary Dr. Maria Rosario Singh-Vergeire, together with Undersecretary Lilibeth C. David and Undersecretary Ma. Carolina Vidal-Taiño, attended the 5th Global Ministerial Summit on Patient Safety held from 23 to 24 February 2023 in Montreux, Switzerland.

The Philippine delegation joined World Health Organization (WHO) Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and Swiss Confederation President Alain Berset and other world health leaders in raising awareness and prioritizing issues of the healthcare system and public health policy to strengthen patient safety.

OIC Vergeire reaffirmed the Philippines' commitment to translating policies to actual implementation in line with the Global Patient Safety Action Plan, and further pledged to continue collaborating with different stakeholders. She highlighted the efforts of the DOH in promoting patient safety such as the standardization of facility licensing requirements, strict infection prevention and control measures, and establishment of inter-governmental bodies against antimicrobial resistance, among others.

"We recognize that patient safety is not the work of individual facilities working in silos, but of institutions, local governments, communities, health workers, patients, and families alike, working together to eliminate preventable harm in health care. We shall champion the inclusion of patient safety principles in existing and emerging health priorities - mental health, cancer, tuberculosis, HIV, and reproductive health. We will continue our work to ensure that care is not only safe but humane - preserving the dignity and rights of every patient," OIC Vergeire said in her statement.



Dr. Vergeire seated with Swiss Confederation President Alain Berset and WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus during the 5th Global Ministerial Summit on Patient Safety held from 23 to 24 February 2023 in Montreux, Switzerland.

The 5th Global Ministerial Summit launched the Montreux Charter on Patient Safety entitled “*Less Harm, Better Care- from Resolution to Implementation*” which was endorsed by the DOH. **END**