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Other information

Venue
Diamond Ballroom, Diamond Hotel, Manila, Philippines

Distribution of documents
All documents are available on the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific website and the WHO Events mobile app.
In line with WHO “green meeting” practices, printed documents are available only upon request at the WHO Enquiry Desk, located at the foyer in front of the Diamond Ballroom. Representatives are kindly requested to collect daily their documents, messages and invitations at their designated mailboxes.

Hybrid meeting platform
Following a hybrid format, sessions are in person and via the Zoom webinar platform.
Instructions on how to access the Regional Committee SharePoint portal for the virtual meeting platform have been sent to all representatives. Individual Zoom links have been provided to those with speaking rights who will be attending virtually. Simultaneous interpretation for English, Chinese and French will be available on the Zoom platform and for in-person attendance.

Video streaming
The plenary sessions will be broadcast on YouTube with the relevant links available on the WHO Regional Office website, the WHO Events app and the Regional Committee SharePoint portal. They can be viewed on personal computers, smartphones and tablets.

Rapporteurs meeting
The meetings will be convened daily in person and virtually from Monday (24 October) to Thursday (27 October) following the afternoon session at 17:15. Draft resolutions for technical agenda items are available on the Regional Committee SharePoint portal. Once rapporteurs have incorporated Member State input from discussions and written suggestions, these draft resolutions become conference papers and are posted on the SharePoint portal. Rapporteurs will review the following draft resolutions on Thursday (27 October): Reaching the unreached, Cervical cancer and Mental health.

WHO publications
Selected WHO publications are available on the WHO Regional Office website. A digital board and display booth can be found at the foyer in front of the Diamond Ballroom where representatives can view and browse WHO publications, including COVID-19 guidance documents and agenda-related materials. A leaflet featuring WHO Western Pacific regional publications from 2020 to 2022 is available for representatives. Limited copies of WHO Western Pacific regional action plans and frameworks published from 2020 to 2022 are available for free on a first-come, first-served basis.
I. PROGRAMME OF WORK (THURSDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2022)

Agenda items 9:00–12:00

14 Reaching the unreached (cont.) WPR/RC73/10
10 Cervical cancer WPR/RC73/6

Agenda items 14:00–17:00

16 Coordination of the work of the World Health Assembly, the Executive Board and the Regional Committee (cont.) WPR/RC73/12
16.5 Other items (Presentation by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body Co-Chair and WPR Bureau Member) RC73/INF/5
11 Mental health WPR/RC73/7

Consideration of draft resolutions

Noncommunicable disease prevention and control WPR/RC73/Conference Paper No. 1 (draft resolution)
Primary health care WPR/RC73/Conference Paper No. 2 (draft resolution)

Please note: The draft resolutions are posted as conference papers on the Regional Committee SharePoint portal. Any amendments should be submitted in writing to wprorcm@who.int using specific language. These conference papers will be considered for adoption following the coffee break.

II. REPORT OF MEETINGS (WEDNESDAY, 26 OCTOBER 2022)

Fourth meeting:

Chairperson: Honourable Bounfeng Phoummalaysith, Minister of Health Lao People's Democratic Republic
Vice Chairperson: Honourable Dr Saia Mau Piukala, Minister for Health, Tonga

Item 16 Coordination of the work of the World Health Assembly, the Executive Board and the Regional Committee
16.2 WHO’s work in countries

The Director, Programme Management, introduced the item by explaining the strength of the regional grounds-up approach, with examples that illustrated how the approach has accelerated implementation of the For the Future vision. The Director of International Cooperation, Ministry of Health, Mongolia, and WHO staff described how care pathways and capacities had been improved in Mongolia to better care for COVID-19 patients and protect the national health system. These lessons had enabled WHO to learn and improve guidelines and support for other countries and areas in the Region. The Director-General for Health in Cambodia and WHO staff described how WHO had supported Cambodia’s efforts to design and promote public health and social measures to prevent COVID-19 transmission and how information-sharing across the Organization had allowed WHO to better support other Member States.
Further evidence of the value of leveraging the grounds-up approach was cited by the Philippines and Papua New Guinea. The Officer-in-Charge of the Philippine Department of Health and the Chairperson of the National Commission of Senior Citizens in the Philippines, joined by WHO staff, described how the country was implementing healthy ageing measures in line with the *Regional Action Plan on Healthy Ageing in the Western Pacific* and national realities. The Minister of Health of Papua New Guinea and WHO staff explained how a capacity-building approach developed for the health information workforce could be adapted to other country contexts.

In response to presentations, one representative expressed appreciation for the critical role of WHO staff and WHO country offices for generating impact at the country level, leading to concern about staffing gaps in country offices.

The Director, Programme Management, said that the success of the grounds-up approach was underpinned by WHO’s efforts to put countries at the centre of its work, work as one team and learn from the experiences of Member States. With regard to staffing gaps in country offices, she said that activities were being carried out at the global and regional levels to fill gaps, attract staff from underrepresented and unrepresented countries and streamline and accelerate recruitment processes.

**Item 12 Noncommunicable disease prevention and control**

The Officer-in-Charge introduced the agenda item on noncommunicable disease (NCD) prevention and control, noting that NCDs pose the greatest disease threat to the Western Pacific and accounted for 87% of all deaths in the Region in 2019. She noted the need for increased investment in the prevention and control of NCDs, which are largely preventable and respond to evidence-based interventions. She said the draft *Regional Action Framework for Noncommunicable Disease Prevention and Control in the Western Pacific* addresses the need for coordination among various sectors as NCDs result from a combination of genetic, environmental and behavioural factors beyond health. She said implementation of the recommendations in the draft Action Framework would promote the integration of NCD prevention and control into the primary health-care system and help make the Western Pacific the healthiest and safest region. A video on NCDs was presented.

Interventions were made by the representatives of the following Member States (in order): Marshall Islands, Tonga, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, China, Vanuatu, the Philippines, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea, Tuvalu, New Zealand, the Federated States of Micronesia, Brunei Darussalam, Australia, the United States of America (territories), Samoa, Cook Islands, Japan, Malaysia, Kiribati, Singapore, Palau, Viet Nam, France, Hong Kong SAR (China), Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.

Member States in their interventions demonstrated strong political commitment to NCD prevention and control, and support for the Regional Action Framework. Representatives described plans, policies and actions in their countries to address the root causes of NCDs, strengthen multisectoral partnerships, engage communities and innovate for NCD prevention and control.

The Officer-in-Charge acknowledged the tremendous contributions from Member States, emphasizing the political commitments and momentum towards the paradigm shift to a new approach to NCD prevention and control throughout the life course. The Director, Division of Healthy Environments and Populations, speaking for his division and the Division of Disease Control, noted the urgency of NCD issues in the context of COVID-19 and their complexity due to causes beyond the health sector. He said multisectoral actions at the population, community and individual levels, as well as system-wide approaches, are required. He emphasized the importance of transforming “sick systems” – in which unhealthy environments exacerbate NCDs and the health sector primarily focuses on treating diseases – into “health systems” with health-enabling environments and systems that support people’s health throughout their lives.
He noted that several Member States had asked WHO for increased support, and he emphasized that WHO would continue to work with other United Nations organizations and partners to support Member States to realize the goals of the Regional Action Framework. He emphasized the need to work as one to identify and share lessons so that Member States can more effectively address NCDs together.

The Assistant Director-General, Universal Health Coverage/Healthier Populations, WHO headquarters, reiterated the importance of the Regional Action Framework in improving and achieving public health and development goals. She noted that WHO will accelerate its efforts to achieve the vision of the Regional Action Framework and the WHO Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases 2013–2020 in advance of the Fourth High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of NCDs in 2025.

Fifth meeting:

Vice Chairperson: Honourable Dr Saia Mau Piukala, Minister for Health, Tonga

Item 13 Primary health care

The Officer-in-Charge introduced the agenda item, noting the critical role primary health care (PHC) plays in building resilient, financially sustainable health-care systems that can meet future challenges, expand access to universal health coverage (UHC) and confront challenges such as rapidly ageing populations and the increasing NCD burden while reducing the risk of catastrophic health expenditure due to out-of-pocket payments. She noted that a focus on PHC could allow health-care systems to be reoriented towards health promotion rather than simply treating the sick, which could be accomplished by integrating communicable disease and NCD services into a single life-course approach. She said the draft Regional Framework on the Future of Primary Health Care in the Western Pacific presents a fresh approach that underpins and links to the other frameworks presented at this session of the Regional Committee. A video on PHC was presented.

Interventions were made by the representatives of the following Member States (in order): Tonga, China, Mongolia, the Federated States of Micronesia, Australia, Singapore, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Japan, the Philippines, Cambodia, Viet Nam, Vanuatu, the United States of America, Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Cook Islands, Samoa, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Papua New Guinea, Hong Kong SAR (China), Solomon Islands and Palau.

Member States universally supported the draft Regional Framework, reaffirming commitments to strengthen PHC as a foundation for achieving UHC. They highlighted the importance of transitioning from a disease-based model of care to a population health-based one with continuous interaction with individuals throughout the life course, in which communities and strong multisectoral relationships contribute to a more people-centred, integrated PHC. They shared current and planned PHC reforms in their respective countries, including efforts to reorient national health policies and plans towards PHC, use innovative technologies to expand access to services, empower populations to take greater control of their health, align financing with integrated models of delivery and strengthen mechanisms to improve PHC delivery. Some Member States called for the development of a fit-for-purpose workforce, greater investment in PHC and the prioritization of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. Finally, Member States indicated their desire to share experiences during implementation of the draft Regional Framework and requested WHO technical assistance to tailor implementation to country contexts.

In responding to interventions, the Director, Health Systems and Services, reiterated the importance of reorienting health systems towards PHC and health promotion. He noted Member States’ agreement with the strategic actions in the Regional Framework, in particular: improved engagement of communities; the role of PHC in ensuring equity, especially by reaching disadvantaged groups; increasing financing
and better use of resources; building a strong workforce; and ensuring locally appropriate models of service delivery. He also noted that digital technologies and telehealth could be used to transform service delivery, while highlighting how the PHC framework connects with the other draft regional frameworks under consideration.

He acknowledged requests for WHO support on policy development and implementation, monitoring and evaluation and facilitating joint learning and experience-sharing among Member States.

**Item 14 Reaching the unreached**

The Officer-in-Charge introduced the agenda item, noting that too many people in the Region have limited or no access to quality health services and experience poorer-than-expected health outcomes. She said the draft *Regional Framework for Reaching the Unreached in the Western Pacific (2022–2030)* recommended actions that could foster more integrated, comprehensive, efficient and people-centred health systems. She called for increased investment in PHC, with outreach services that meet the needs of unreached groups, and said progress will require high-level political commitment, intersectoral collaboration and community engagement to remove barriers preventing health systems from reaching everyone, everywhere. She concluded by noting that reaching the unreached is necessary to realize the *For the Future* vision, accelerate progress towards UHC and achieve the SDGs. A short video on the agenda item was presented.

Interventions were made by the representatives of the following Member States (in order): the Philippines, Mongolia, Viet Nam, Australia, China, Brunei Darussalam and New Zealand.

The Regional Committee will continue taking interventions in its session tomorrow.

### III. OTHER MEETINGS

**Thursday, 27 October 2022**

12:45–13:45 Side event: Passage to innovation (Diamond Ballroom)