

# Asia-Pacific PARLIAMENTARIAN FORUM *on* Global Health



**ENHANCING THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS IN  
ADVANCING UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE**

Manila and Bataan, Philippines  
23-24 August 2018



**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC**



FOURTH MEETING

**ENHANCING THE ROLE OF  
PARLIAMENTARIANS IN  
ADVANCING UNIVERSAL HEALTH  
COVERAGE**

Hosted by the Chairpersons of the:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

With support from:

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WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

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Manila and Bataan, Philippines

23-24 August 2018

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# **ENHANCING THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS IN ADVANCING UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE**



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#### NOTE

The views expressed in this report are those of the participants of the Fourth Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the conveners.

This report has been prepared by the World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific as Secretariat and for those who participated in the Fourth Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health in Manila and Bataan, Philippines, from 23 to 24 August 2018.

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# SUMMARY

The Fourth Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health was convened in Manila, Philippines, from 23-24 August 2018. The meeting was co-chaired by the Senate Committee on Health and Demography and the House Committee on Health, with support from the Department of Health, in collaboration with WHO WPRO, and attended by 54 parliamentarians from 21 countries. The meeting aimed to enhance the role of parliamentarians in advancing Universal Health Care, with plenary discussions on country progress to achieve health in the SDGs, on securing sustainable financing for UHC, and on strengthening legal frameworks for UHC, as well as a site visit to the Province of Bataan to illustrate local governance for health promotion and health service delivery.

The meeting objectives were:

1. to review progress since the Third Meeting of the Forum towards achieving health in the SDGs;
2. to share country experiences in developing, implementing, and evaluating health policies for UHC, including through financing and regulation; and
3. to discuss next steps for the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health.

Participants reaffirmed their commitment to the health and well-being of all people, while leaving no one behind, through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs). They were concerned that, despite significant gains in health, progress is uneven and people still suffer from various threats to health that are rooted in social, economic, environmental, commercial and other determinants of health. They acknowledged that advances in the health of populations must necessarily include those who are marginalized or vulnerable. They considered UHC as an enumerated SDG target. An effective, efficient and equitable platform to

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