

**8th Annual Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science,
Technology and Innovation for the SDGs
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I'm the Undersecretary of Health of the Philippines, Maria Francia M. Laxamana and I'm here to talk about our efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals through various programs under the Special Concerns Team of the Department of Health.

Firstly, the Philippine Medical Tourism and Wellness Program (PMWTP) aims to attract tourists by providing world-class medical facilities and services. Our office aims to have an electronic health information system, in coordination with national government agencies and private sectors, that will help in gathering data of foreign nationals coming into the country for medical tourism. This will help in future research, monitoring and evaluation for Philippine Medical Travel and Wellness Tourism Program (PMTWTP). Aside from medical tourism, improvement of health in tourism for Filipinos and foreign nationals who will travel to different Philippine destinations can be done through telemedicine, in line with the Universal Health Care (UHC). This contributes to SDGs 3, 8, 9 and 17.

Secondly, the Public Private Partnership for Health (PPPH) improves access to quality health services for the poor and marginalized. The Philippine Health Agenda (PHA) was formulated to uphold every Filipino's right to health. It acknowledges that universal health coverage can only be achieved through a collective effort of all stakeholders to be felt by every Filipino. The advent of telemedicine during the pandemic paved an avenue for its utilization, with PPPH developing telemedicine platforms to address all Filipinos' non-emergent problems. This contributes to SDGs 3, 9, and SDG 17.

Lastly, the Philippines is taking steps to improve healthcare by addressing different areas through various initiatives. The Philippine National AIDS Council (PNAC) is working towards reducing the prevalence of HIV/AIDS by increasing access to information, testing, and treatment using digital platforms and blockchain technology. This aligns with SDG 3, 9, and 17, which aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all. Additionally, the Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care (PITAHC) is integrating traditional and alternative healthcare practices into the western healthcare system to provide more healthcare options and conserve traditional knowledge. This initiative contributes to both SDGs 3 and 9 which seeks to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Together, these efforts show the Philippines' commitment to achieving the targets of sustainable development goals and improving the health and well-being of its citizens.

Through these programs, we aim to provide quality healthcare services, develop and sustain cities and communities, promote economic growth as well as provide partnerships in contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals at different levels of governance and the health system.

