

## **PLENARY SESSION 2**

**ADDRESS DETERMINANTS OF NCD: THE WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT AND  
SYSTEMS RESPONSE**



## | BACKGROUND

Addressing NCD determinants requires strengthening multi-sectoral actions for health beyond the territory of health sector. A few systems contribute to addressing NCD.

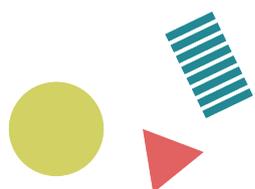
- Accountability systems: good governance, ethical conduct of government actor, effective management of conflict of interests will guide transparent and responsive politics which affect sectoral policies in response to NCD.
- Intelligence systems contribute to evidence which guide effective agenda setting, policy formulation, policy implementation and monitoring and evaluation. This requires institutional capacity in country to guide evidence based policy.
- Effective political systems: government and legislative bodies has large role in effective responses to NCD, through leadership, commitment, and responsiveness to its citizen.

These systems contribute to effective sectoral policy responses to NCD, for example, education sector improves health literacy in the population and consumer empowerment, economic and fiscal policies support increased tax on tobacco, alcohol and sugary beverage deter consumption on these products. Labour policies in favor of maternity leaves support successful six month exclusive breast feeding which is an intrinsic preventive factors for certain NCD. Food and nutrition labeling such as Recommended Daily Allowance, salt, trans-fat and sugar contents increases consumer awareness and prevent obesity. Urban planning, environment and transportation policies provide a conducive infrastructure and social environment in favour of physically active citizen and minimum polluted environment.

This sixty minute plenary will address how various government sectors: trade, economic, education, labour and health are mobilized, given their distinctive institutional and legal mandates, for a shared value in response to NCD through policy coherence and synergies. Active citizen and empowerment are critical in holding government actors and private corporate sector accountable and act for the interests of public. This can be accomplished by good governance, rule of law, accountability, transparency and management of conflict of interests, government regulatory capacities, and an intelligence system where institutional capacities are required to maximize power of evidence.

## | OBJECTIVES

To synthesize global experiences on the whole of government actions and synergies with civil society and active citizens in addressing NCD determinants.





Panelist

## Susan Mercado

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Susan Pineda Mercado MD, MPH Leadership | Vision | Service Dr Susan Mercado is a medical doctor and public health expert with over 30 years of experience. For 15 years, she had a distinguished career with the World Health Organization, Western Pacific Regional Office where she led the response to some of the most complex challenges of public health today—noncommunicable diseases (including tobacco, alcohol, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity); climate and health; malnutrition; violence and injuries; disability; mental health and substance abuse; maternal and child health; and urban health and inequity. Previously, she was Undersecretary and Chief of Staff of the Department of Health, Republic of the Philippines. Currently she was 2018 Special Envoy of the President for Global Health Initiatives and now works full time with the Philippine Red Cross, as Deputy Secretary General in charge of Centers for Health in Humanitarian Action with oversight of primary health care, blood services, dialysis, water sanitation and hygiene, welfare services and safety services/injury prevention. Dr Mercado has degrees of A.B. Philosophy (magna cum laude), Doctor of Medicine and Master of Public Health from the University of the Philippines. She was named Distinguished Alumni in Global Health by the University of the Philippines in 2017. In 2018, she was recognized as one of the 100 most influential Filipina women in world in the category of Innovator and Thought Leader by the US-based Filipina Women’s Network.