



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

12 June 2018

Excellency,

Further to my letter dated 22 May 2018, I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter from H.E. Ms. Katalin Annamária Bogyay, Permanent Representative of Hungary, and H.E. Mr. Vitavas Srivihok, Permanent Representative of Thailand, co-facilitators of the informal consultations on the modalities of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage.

The letter of the co-facilitators transmits the zero draft of the proposed modalities for the high-level meeting. The presentation of the zero draft will be held on 19 June 2018 at 3.00 p.m.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Lajčák'.

Miroslav Lajčák

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



Permanent Mission of Hungary
to the United Nations



Permanent Mission of Thailand
to the United Nations

12 June 2018

Excellency,

We are honoured to write to you in our capacity as co-facilitators to lead the intergovernmental consultations on the modalities for the high-level meeting on universal health coverage before the end of the seventy-second session, as contained in document A/RES/72/139.

In line with your letter dated 22 May 2018, we are committed to ensuring that the process of consultations on a draft modalities resolution to be adopted by the General Assembly is inclusive, transparent and Member States-driven.

In this regard, we are pleased to present the zero draft of the modalities resolution on 19 June 2018, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the General Assembly Hall, and to convene the first informal consultations on the modalities resolution on 22 June 2018, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Trusteeship Council Chamber, respectively.

In preparation for the first informal consultations, please find attached the zero draft of the modalities resolution.

H.E. Ms. Katalin Annamária Bogay
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of
Hungary to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Vitavas Srivihok
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Thailand to the United Nations

H.E. Miroslav Lajčák
President of the 72nd session of the General Assembly



¹²⁰⁴¹
Seventy-second session
Agenda item 127

Draft resolution submitted by the President of the General Assembly

Scope, modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage

The General Assembly,

PP1 *Recognizing* that through the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals¹ in September 2015, Heads of State and Government made a bold commitment to achieve universal health coverage by 2030, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all, (*Source: based on PP3 of 72/268 and PP5 of 72/274*)

PP2 *Recalling* its resolution 71/159 of 15 December 2016, entitled “Global health and foreign policy: health employment and economic growth”, which underlined the primary responsibility of Member States to accelerate the transition towards universal health coverage; (*Source: based on OP12 of 71/159 and OP8 of 72/139*)

PP3 *Recalling further* its resolution 72/139 of 12 December 2017, entitled “Global health and foreign policy: addressing the health of the most vulnerable for an inclusive society”, in which it decided to hold a high-level meeting in 2019 on universal health coverage, (*Source: based on (1) OP24 of 72/139; (2) PP1 of 72/268; and (3) PP2 of 72/274*)

PP4 *Recalling further* its resolution 72/138 of 12 December 2017, entitled “International Universal Health Coverage Day”, in which it decided to proclaim 12 December as International Universal Health Coverage Day, (*Source: OP1 of 72/138*)

PP5 *Recognizing* that health is a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of all three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – of sustainable development and that, despite progress made, challenges in global health, including

¹ See resolution 70/1.

major inequities and vulnerabilities within and among countries, regions and populations, still remain and demand persistent attention, (*Source: PP6 of 72/139*)

PP6 *Emphasizing* the need for the high-level meeting to complement and build on preceding and ongoing health processes and initiatives, including, among others, the High-level Meeting on Ending AIDS held in New York from 8-10 June 2016 and the High-level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance, held in New York on 21 September 2016, as well as the High-level Meeting on the fight against tuberculosis and the Third High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, to be convened in New York on 26 and 27 September 2018, respectively,

1. *Decides* that the one-day high-level meeting on universal health coverage convened by the President of the General Assembly shall be held in New York on the [second day of the general debate] of the Assembly at its seventy-fourth session, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m., consisting of an opening segment, a plenary segment for general discussion, two multi-stakeholder panels and a brief closing segment; (*Source: based on OP1 of 72/268 and OP1 of 72/274*)

2. *Also decides* that the overall theme of the high-level meeting will be “Universal Health Coverage: Together for a healthier world”; (*Source: based on OP1 of 72/268 and OP1 of 72/274*)

3. *Further decides* that:

(a) The opening segment, to be held from 10 to 10.30 a.m., will feature statements by the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session, the Secretary-General, the Director General of the World Health Organization, as well as an eminent high-level champion of universal health coverage, selected, in consultation with Member States, by the President of the General Assembly, giving due consideration to gender equity; (*Source: based on OP3(a) of 72/268 and OP3(a) of 72/274*)

(b) The plenary segment, to be held from 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 to 5.30 p.m., will comprise statements by Member States and observers of the General Assembly; a list of speakers will be established in accordance with established practices of the Assembly, and the time limits for these statements will be three minutes for individual delegations and five minutes for statements made on behalf of a group of States; (*Source: based on OP3(b) of 72/268 and OP3(b) of 72/274*)

(c) The closing segment, to be held from 5.30 p.m. to 6 p.m., will comprise summaries of the multi-stakeholder panels and concluding remarks by the President of the General Assembly; (*Source: based on OP5 of 72/274*)

4. *Decides* that the organizational arrangements for the two multi-stakeholder panels will be as follows:

(a) Two multi-stakeholder panels will be held in parallel to the plenary segment, one from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the other from 3 to 5 p.m.;

(b) Each of the two multi-stakeholder panels will be co-chaired by two representatives, one from a developed country and one from a developing country, to be appointed by the President of the General Assembly from among the Heads of State or Government attending the high-level meeting, in consultation with Member States, taking into account gender equity, level of development and geographical representation;

(c) The themes of the multi-stakeholder panels will take into consideration the direction and outcomes of other preceding health processes and initiatives, with a view to ensuring the most effective and efficient outcomes and potential deliverables

and sharing experiences and lessons learned to address remaining implementation gaps;

(d) The President of the General Assembly may invite parliamentarians, local governments, the heads or senior representatives of relevant United Nations entities, including the World Bank, development partners, civil society, the private sector, academia, medical associations, indigenous leadership and community organizations to serve as speakers on the panels, taking into account gender equity, level of development and geographical representation;

(Source: mostly based on OP4 of 72/268 and OP4 of 72/274)

5. *Further decides* that the high-level meeting shall approve a concise and action-oriented political declaration, agreed in advance by consensus through intergovernmental negotiations, to be submitted by the President of the General Assembly for adoption by the Assembly; *(Source: OP6 of 72/268)*

6. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, with the support of the World Health Organization and other relevant partners, to organize and preside over an interactive civil society hearing, no later than July 2019, with the active participation of appropriate senior-level representatives of Member States, observers of the General Assembly, parliamentarians, representatives of local government, relevant United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, invited civil society organizations, philanthropic foundations, academia, medical associations, the private sector and broader communities, ensuring the participation and voices of women, children and indigenous leadership, as part of the preparatory process for the high-level meeting, and also requests the President to prepare a summary of the hearing prior to the high-level meeting; *(Source: based on OP7 of 72/274)*

7. *Encourages* all Member States to participate in the high-level meeting, including the multi-stakeholder panels, at the highest possible level, preferably at the level of Heads of State and Government and invites all observers of the General Assembly to be represented at the highest possible level; *(Source: merger of OP8 and OP9 of 72/268 and 72/274)*

8. *Also invites* the United Nations system, including funds, programmes and specialized agencies, including the World Health Organization, regional commissions and relevant envoys of the Secretary-General, to participate in the high-level meeting, as appropriate, and urges them to consider initiatives in support of the preparatory process and the meeting, particularly with regard to sharing evidence and good practices, challenges and lessons learned; *(Source: based on OP10 of 72/268 and OP10 of 72/274)*

9. *Further invites* non-governmental organizations that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council with relevant expertise to register with the Secretariat to attend the meeting; *(Source: OP11 of 72/268 and OP12 of 72/274)*

10. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of other relevant representatives of relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector who may attend the high-level meeting and participate in the interactive civil society hearing and the multi-stakeholder panels, taking into account the principles of transparency and equitable geographical representation, with due regard to the meaningful participation of women, and to submit the list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis;² *(Source: OP12 of 72/268 and OP13 of 72/274)*

² The list of proposed as well as final names will be brought to the attention of the General Assembly.

11. *Invites* members of civil society, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia, development partners and other relevant initiatives to make a fundamental contribution to the process in terms of raising awareness of the importance of universal health coverage and its contribution towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals; *(Source: based on OP13 of 72/268 and OP21 of 72/139)*

12. *Encourages* Member States to consider including in their national delegations representatives such as parliamentarians, mayors and governors, representatives of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, indigenous leadership, community organizations and faith-based organizations, academia, philanthropic foundations, the private sector and UHC networks, with due regard to gender equity; *(Source: based on OP14 of 72/268 and 72/274)*

13. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-third session, in consultation with Member States, to finalize the organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting. *(Source: based on OP15 of 72/268 and 72/274)*

Where a name is objected to, the objecting Member State will, on a voluntary basis, make known to the Office of the President of the General Assembly the general basis of its objections and the Office will share any information received with any Member State upon its request.