



HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

**“Universal health coverage: expanding our ambition for health and
well-being in a post-COVID world”**

21 September 2023

United Nations Headquarters, New York

Background

The High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage is convened in accordance with General Assembly resolution [75/315](#). The theme will be “Universal health coverage: expanding our ambition for health and well-being in a post-COVID world”. It will be held on Thursday, 21 September 2023 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The meeting will bring together Member States and observers of the General Assembly, the UN system, parliamentarians, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector.

The objective of the meeting is to undertake a comprehensive review of the implementation of the 2019 Political Declaration to identify gaps and solutions to accelerate progress towards the achievement of universal health coverage by 2030.

This meeting takes place at the halfway point to 2030, with nearly all SDGs off track, including health. Access to essential health services has stagnated since the launch of the SDGs agenda. Two billion people incurred financial hardship due to out-of-pocket health spending, of which 1 billion faced catastrophic costs – often the poorest and most marginalized. A primary health care approach is the most inclusive, equitable and cost-effective path to universal health coverage. However, implementation now hinges on an investment agenda that rethinks, aligns and prioritizes investments to strengthen health systems and across sectors to tackle the determinants of health and realize the right to health for all.

In September 2019, Heads of State and Government approved an ambitious and comprehensive political declaration at the United Nations General Assembly High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage, adopted through General Assembly resolution 74/2, with a decision to convene a follow-up high-level meeting at the level of Heads of State and Governments in 2023 in New York.

On 9 May 2023, the President of the General Assembly held a multi-stakeholder hearing as part of the preparatory process for the High-level meeting on universal health coverage. The multi-stakeholder hearing consisted of two panel discussions. They focused on stakeholder perspectives, experiences and recommendations on urgent actions and investments in health to accelerate progress toward the achievement of UHC by 2030. Stakeholders identified concrete milestones towards achieving this goal.

Format

The high-level meeting will be held fully in-person from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and will consist of an opening segment, a plenary segment for general discussion, two multi-stakeholder panels and a brief closing segment.

The themes of the multi-stakeholder panels are as follows.

- Panel 1: What is a primary health care approach and why does it matter?
 - Why does the primary health care approach matter and what transformational shifts are needed now to accelerate progress?
 - How do we move from rhetoric to action on engaging and empowering patients and communities?
 - What shifts are required to embed primary health care approach at the heart of efforts in health emergencies?
 - Why does primary health care approach matter to the broader SDG Agenda?

- Panel 2: Aligning our investments for health and well-being in a post-COVID world.
 - How can we better align investments to unblock progress post-COVID on health and well-being?
 - What is the role of Members of Parliament in increasing domestic investment?
 - How can development banks trigger greater alignment and investment in primary health care?
 - How can civil society ensure that investments respond to people needs?

Participation

The high-level meeting is open to Member States, observers of the General Assembly, the United Nations system, representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC and representatives of organizations with special accreditation.

Outcome

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 General Assembly.

Logistics

A detailed logistics note covering the three health-related meetings has been circulated with this concept note and will be available on the website of the President of the General Assembly.