

**Statement by the representative of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia at the 152th session of WHO Executive Board
Agenda Item #5: Universal Health Coverage**

Reorienting health systems to primary health care as a resilient foundation for universal health coverage and preparations for a high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on universal health coverage

Thank you Madam Chair, Ethiopia aligns itself with the statement delivered by Rwanda on behalf of the 47 African member states.

1. We appreciate the secretariat for the comprehensive report and welcome the discussion on UHC as a priority agenda during the upcoming United Nations General Assembly.
2. While appreciating the effort of WHO and the World bank Group to produce monitoring report on universal health coverage and to identify priority areas, Ethiopia is pleased to share the progress it has made towards universal health coverage
3. The principles of primary health care have been among the pillars of the country's health system and Ethiopia has made significant progress over the previous two decades in terms of increasing access to health services through the expansion of primary healthcare services and the deployment of a large number of health work force.
4. Encouraging results have been registered in terms of an increase in the number of health centers and hospitals and enhancing quality of services, including the role of the private sector in expanding healthcare access in the country.

5. Equity has also been front and center in the revised Health Sector Transformation Plan (HSTPII) and measures are being put in place.
6. To tackle impoverishing health expenditures, Ethiopia has implemented various interventions to enhance financial risk protection in accessing essential health services such as provision of high-impact interventions free of charge through an exemption program; subsidization of more than 80% of the cost of care in public health facilities; community-based health insurance (CBHI) schemes; full fee waivers of both health services and insurance premiums to the very poor; and revision of the healthcare financing strategy within the framework of UHC. We are also working towards implementing an explicit benefit package and having social health insurance.
7. The emergency, critical and operative care services are among the top priorities as indicated in the revised package of essential health services.

Chair, we believe that the proposals we have, rightly address the questions at hand.

8. Ethiopia is pleased and honored to be the pen holder for the draft resolution titled “Strengthening Emergency, Critical and Operative Care for UHC and Protection from Health Emergencies”.
9. We strongly believe that this draft resolution addresses the gaps and lessons learnt from the COVID 19 pandemic and helps better prepare us to handle upcoming global health challenges while of

course ensuring the realization of UHC through PHC to meet people's health needs across the life course.

10. We have witnessed that having a continuum of integrated services from the pre-hospital and community to health centers to primary care clinics and to hospitals, saves lives and maximizes the impact of investments across the health system.

11. We encourage all of us to use the opportunity afforded by WHO's 75th anniversary in 2023 to inspire and catalyze timely additional efforts globally, to strengthen the planning and provision of Emergency Critical and Operative care services as part of universal health coverage, so as to meet population health needs, improve health system resilience and ensure public health security.

12. We are pleased to announce that the draft resolution has so far been co-sponsored by the 46 member states of the African region, the 27 member states of the European Union, Brazil, Paraguay and Iraq. Once again, we call for all member states to co-sponsor this timely resolution and accelerate efforts to enhance the gains towards UHC, leaving no one behind.

13. Finally Madame Chair, I would also like to use this opportunity to reiterate Ethiopia's support to the draft resolution submitted by the Kingdom of Eswatini and Uganda.

14. I thank you.