

## Statement of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

WHO Executive Board 152nd session

### 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

Excellencies,

I'm pleased to speak on behalf of the IFRC, comprising 192 National Societies and millions of staff and volunteers.

UHC reverberates deeply with the IFRC's core mission to act in the interest of the most vulnerable and alleviate human suffering.

Despite progress, we're seeing vulnerable groups and marginalized populations still lack access to lifesaving health services.

At the High-Level Meeting on UHC we must commit to:

**First**, prioritizing the health needs of the most vulnerable, especially in situations of disasters, climate crisis, health emergencies and violence.

**Second**, investing in community health workers and volunteers, including Red Cross and Red Crescent health workers and volunteers

**Third**, further developing community health strategies through improved collaboration between public health services, communities, and civil society organizations.

We are committed to continuing work with governments and other partners to implement our shared commitments to UHC and build stronger health systems for *everyone, everywhere*.

Thank you.