

INTERVENTIONS
72nd World Health Assembly
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AGENDA ITEM #11.5: Primary health care towards universal health coverage

KEY MESSAGES

Thank you chair.

Canada welcomes the report of the Director General on Primary Health Care toward UHC. We particularly applaud the work that has been done since the Astana conference by WHO and UNICEF to elaborate evidence-based policy levers for implementing the Astana Declaration's vision of Primary Health Care.

As highlighted in the report, the provision of integrated health services through primary health care is critical to the achievement of the health-related SDG targets, including those for UHC and infectious diseases.

We have seen significant social progress over the past forty years since Alma Ata, in particular in relation to human rights, inclusivity, gender equality and the need to eliminate stigma and discrimination. UHC and primary health care should reflect these important steps forward.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights are integral to the health of women, children and adolescents, and therefore form a critical component of UHC.

Canada is committed to supporting access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health services and information through gender-responsive health systems and gender-responsive primary health care.

Canada will continue to seek opportunities to align its international assistance for health in support of national policies, strategies and plans that meet the health needs of women and girls.

Canada also looks forward to leveraging its development assistance to support Member States in mobilizing human, technological, financial and information resources to help to build strong and sustainable health systems based on primary health care.