

Seventy-second World Health Assembly
Committee A
Agenda item 11.5 Universal Health Coverage

Statement by International Labour Organization

Universal health coverage is an economic and social necessity. Despite advances in extending health coverage, it is unacceptable that more than half of the world's population lacks effective access to health care, and that millions are being pushed into poverty each year because of out-of-pocket expenses on health.

Reaching universal health coverage is a central objective of social protection systems, including floors. Governments can best ensure universal protection financed through a combination of taxes and contributions, in a way which reflects the principles of risk sharing, equity and solidarity in a fiscally, economically and socially sustainable way, in line with the principles laid out in the ILO Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202).

Universal health coverage is also key to achieve SDG 8 targets on productive employment and decent work for all. Ill-health and the inability to seek care due to financial, geographical or social barriers negatively impact the productivity of the workforce. Conversely, investing in decent health employment, including for community health workers, contributes to thriving national economies as underlined by the High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth.

Sustained commitment is required to leave no one behind. The global partnerships to promote universal health coverage (UHC2030) and universal social protection (USP2030) are important platforms to mobilize jointly political support and accelerate the achievement of Agenda 2030.