

Statement of Slovakia at the 72nd World Health Assembly, Committee A
11.5 Universal health coverage
Geneva, 22 May 2019

Madam Chairperson,
Honorable ministers,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The Slovak health system provides universal health coverage and a comprehensive benefit package. More than 80 % of current health expenditure is publicly financed and the level of out of pocket expenditures is similar to the EU average. **Around 18 % of current health expenditures in the Slovak Republic is borne directly by patient.** The level of financial protection overall is good only **3.5 % of households reported experiencing catastrophic spending on health in 2012.**

Slovakia, thus, fully recognized the powerful idea of **universal health coverage** and officially declared its commitment to the UHC at the 71st World Health Assembly 2018. **Our strategic priorities in the UHC** in line with Agenda 2030 refer to reversing adverse trends and achieving a 25% reduction of the mortality from the most serious non-communicable diseases, cardiovascular diseases and cancer.

In February this year, the Slovak Presidency in Visegrad Group organized High-level conference **with high priority topics including innovative ways of implementing UHC, tuberculosis and Agenda 2030.**

From the perspective of universal health coverage, Slovakia is fulfilling strategic aims of the WHO. The Ministry of Health is working on a number of systemic steps that will deliver even greater positive results over the next few years. One of them is stratification project that aims to optimize network of providers that will increase services accessibility. It will also lead into better quality and safer medical care, improved hospital availability, better working conditions for doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals.

We also transformed our UHC commitments into a political leadership action at national level by declaring the year 2019 as the Year of Prevention in Slovakia. The public health priority is to create a new functional model of public health, based on the principle of health in all policies, the responsibility of the citizen for his own health and the promotion of citizens' awareness.

In conclusion, for Slovakia, making progress towards Universal Health Coverage means improvement in:

1. Availability of quality health care through standardized procedures;
2. Availability of prevention, health promotion, early diagnosis and treatment for all;
3. Patient safety with strong focus on improvement of the early detection and increase participation in screening programs.

I thank you Madam Chair.