

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

SEVENTY-FIFTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

(21-30 May 2023)

Item 13.1: Universal Health coverage

Chairperson,

The Delegation of DPRK extends its appreciation to WHO Secretariat for its efforts to achieve the Universal Health Coverage regarding it as one of the most important and essential part of public health.

Since 1950s, the DPRK, having adopted it as the consistent national policy for the state to be responsible for taking care of the life and health of all people, has been practising the free medical care system. It has established a well regulated medical service system and, on this basis, expanding its coverage stage by stage and improving the quality of health services.

In order to strengthen the Universal Health Coverage, the unified guidance system for health care services has been in place from the central level to the lowest unit, strictly monitoring and supervising the content and quality of the medical services throughout the country and also providing the reorientation and in-service trainings for health care workers on a regular basis. Particularly, the DPRK has established a tightly interlinked primary health care network comprising 1,700 county and Ri hospitals and 6,200 Ri/Dong clinics throughout the country on the basis of which the household doctors are providing the primary but comprehensive, preventive and curative health care services. A household doctor is in charge of family members for 130 households on average.

The tele-medicine system, already established and functional in the counties and provinces, is now extended to the Ri hospitals and polyclinics to serve for communicable diseases surveillance, health knowledge and information dissemination, tele-consultation for diagnosis of the diseases, and for better management of health information.

And all the PHC units including Ri hospitals and polyclinics, and clinics are encouraged to improve and standardize their services for the resident population in close collaboration with the relevant upper-level county and provincial level hospitals and the Disease Prevention and Control Institutes (DPCIs).

This robust health care service system made it possible for the DPRK to successfully overcome the national health crisis of COVID-19 in the shortest period.

Our government will exert continued effort to achieve the health-related SDGs by further improving and standardizing the content and scope of universal health care services including the extended introduction of the WHO essential health care service package in cooperation with WHO.

Thank you.