

Statement of I.R.Iran on

"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"

And

"Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, and mental health"

We would like to appreciate the DG for preparing reports on UHC and NCD. Although the set UHC goals has made some progresses, due to the covid-19 pandemic and the simultaneous crises such as climate change, yet they lag behind targets.

An important issue is the reduction of out-of-pocket costs, especially in the field of inpatient services. To this end, it is suggested to provide health services based on clinical instructions and guidelines to prevent induced demand and strategic purchasing of insurance based on these guidelines and online referral system in family medicine program.

Moreover, increasing people's health literacy and using new methods of service delivery will be among the priority areas for the development of the service delivery and the realization of UHC indicators.

Some of the good practices of I.R. Iran in building a more resilient health system in response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been recently published and shared with international community through a recognized public health journal in Feb. 2023¹.

With regard to prevention and control of NCDs, despite upgrading the 4 by 4 program to the 5 by 5 program and adding the number of relevant interventions, from 2023 onward, it seems that reorientation of public and individual policies and interventions of NCDs may be necessary to achieve the SDG 3.4 to reduce premature deaths from NCDs by more than one third.

Considering termination of COVID-19 pandemic as a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) and the significant changes in the people's life style, it is recommended to carry out a STEPS survey as soon as possible and based on the

1 - Front. Public Health 11:1073259. Doi: 10.3389/fpubh.2023.1073259

results, the necessary interventions to achieve the goals of 9 WHO categories should be updated.

Based on the recent workshop in Oman on NCD child, one of the best approach to reduce the burden of NCDs is to start interventions from the childhood period, which is of utmost importance in reducing premature deaths in adulthood. We invite all countries to take this initiative into serious consideration.

Mr. /Madame Chairperson, thank you for your kind attention.