

**Statement of the delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan at the  
152nd session of the WHO Executive Committee  
under item 5 - Universal health coverage  
(February 1, 2023)**

Thank you, Madam President,

Dear Director-General,

Distinguished delegates,

It is an honor for me to speak today on behalf of Kazakhstan.

We thank the WHO management for their leadership on current global health issues, and the Secretariat for organizing this session.

The coronavirus pandemic has shown us the advantages of meetings in an online and hybrid format. We see the usefulness of continuing the practice of holding hybrid meetings of WHO governing bodies, which will allow Member States to strengthen the composition of official delegations and expand discussions.

We welcome the Director-General's report on **Reorienting health systems to primary health care as a resilient foundation for universal health coverage**.

The Astana Declaration on Primary Health Care (PHC) defines PHC as the basis for achieving **Universal Health Coverage and health-related SDGs** and contains commitments of countries to strengthen it.

In determining the national healthcare policy, Kazakhstan is guided by SDGs and achieving Universal Health Coverage by 2030.

**The national project ‘A healthy nation’** outlines the main policy areas until 2025.

We recognize the importance of primary health care to ensure universal health coverage. On the national level, work is being done to improve the quality of medical services and their accessibility to the population. We aim to increase the **financing of PHC and clinical diagnostics services to 60%** of all healthcare costs by **2025**, as well as to increase the **PHC coverage of rural localities to 100% this year**. In addition, Kazakhstan strives to ensure financial protection of the population by increasing the availability of expensive medical services through Compulsory Social Health Insurance.

Thus, the current national health policy of Kazakhstan addressed all **three aspects of UHC**: coverage of services, coverage of the population, and financial protection.

This year, health agenda receives special attention from the UN General Assembly. We welcome the three upcoming High-level meetings on Universal Health Coverage, fighting tuberculosis, and pandemic prevention.

Taking into account the clear connection between two important topics: UHC and PHC, Kazakhstan takes initiative to **add the PHC item to the agenda of the High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage** in September this year.

We propose to hold a panel session on the topic 'Primary health care for achieving universal health coverage and SDGs'. We are also interested in **co-chairing** this session.

Moreover, on October 23 of this year, Kazakhstan, together with WHO, is holding an **International Conference on PHC**, dedicated to the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Alma-Ata Declaration and the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Astana Declaration on PHC. The conference, which will be held in Astana, will allow participants to discuss the pertinent issues relating to primary health care.

**On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan**, I invite you to visit Kazakhstan and take part in the **International Conference on PHC on 23<sup>rd</sup> October**.

Furthermore, we invite the representatives of the countries of the WHO European Region to Kazakhstan to participate in the 73<sup>rd</sup> session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe on 24-26 October this year.

In conclusion, let me congratulate the World Health Organization on its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

Thank you for your attention.