



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH
REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES**

**156th Session of the Executive Board, World Health Organization
3 – 11 February 2025**

Agenda 6. Universal Health Coverage

Thank you Chair

We note with appreciation the updates and important information contained in the report. We welcome the progress made, particularly in the expansion of primary healthcare initiatives and platforms.

As highlighted in the report, Universal Health Coverage remains a cornerstone of our collective endeavor to ensure that no one is left behind and that everyone, everywhere, has equitable access to affordable, high-quality healthcare.

Achieving UHC necessitates a multifaceted approach, encompassing early identification of diseases, preventative measures and the removal of financial and geographical barriers to healthcare. Fiscal constraints and logistical complexities of delivering services in diverse geographical contexts pose considerable challenges.

In the Maldives, we have consistently advocated for Primary Health Care as the most effective, efficient, and sustainable method for delivering community-level services, particularly given our geographic limitations. Even with significant fiscal constraints, our longstanding commitment to social health insurance inclusive of full coverage of services and medication for all citizens at every level of service has reduced out of pocket expenditures.

With the integration of digital health blueprint and the establishment of efficient referral systems through telemedicine, it has further strengthened effectiveness of the services and the acceptance of the model by the community.

Maldives requests the secretariat to:

- Provide tailored technical assistance to Member States in the development and implementation of primary healthcare-focused policies and programs.
- Facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration by establishing platforms for countries to exchange best practices and lessons learned in their pursuit of UHC through primary healthcare.
- Strengthen monitoring and evaluation frameworks by developing robust indicators and data collection mechanisms to effectively track UHC progress and identify areas for improvement.
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- Advocate for increased investment in primary healthcare initiatives within Member States by mobilizing resources from donors and development partners.

Maldives reaffirms its commitment to the outcomes of the last High-Level Meeting, and to working with other countries both regionally and globally, in further improving Universal Health Coverage through innovative approaches, including local partnerships and financing.

We look forward to contributing to the development of the roadmap to the next high-level meeting.

Thank you