

10. Primary health care

Italian Statement

Chair,

Italian health system is strongly oriented at providing universal access, high standards of care and reasonable and sustainable costs for the users. It today offers an equal and free access to preventive, diagnostic, curative, palliative and rehabilitation services to all residents in the country without discrimination. In addition, it also gives access to essential services, such as emergency care, without distinction of any kind, to persons without a residence permit and not registered within the national health system.

We enjoy one of the longest life expectancies, that continues to grow despite the ongoing demographic, epidemiological, social, and economic challenges.

In this context, we are presently undertaking important reforms, financed by the EU *recovery and resilience funds*: these reforms are guided by the 2030 Agenda, pursuing a whole-of government and whole-of-society approaches, as well as health-in-all-policies and life-course approaches.

In particular, we are investing in integrated, community-based healthcare through the so-called “community houses”, community hospitals and home care, in order to reduce fragmentation of services and offer high quality, safe, comprehensive, accessible, available and affordable services for everyone, everywhere, as close as possible to users.

We are also investing into telemedicine in order to achieve flexibility, innovation in treatment approaches, accessibility and availability, for underserved populations or users with limited mobility.

Through these reforms, we want to protect our health system and strengthen the role of primary health care, “Now More Than Ever”, revitalizing the Alma Ata principles, as renewed in the Astana Declaration and in more recent WHO Resolutions.

For all these reasons, if we really want to “leave no one behind” we need to keep acting bravely and be consistent in our national policies in fostering universal coverage and orientation towards primary care, as a tool of health and wellness as well as of social and economic development and peace.

We thank WHO for remaining a reference in terms of strategic guidance and expertise in the implementation of our PHC-led reform.

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