



GOVERNMENT OF TUVALU

MINISTRY OF HEALTH, SOCIAL WELFARE AND GENDER AFFAIRS

WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY (WHA)

NOVEMBER 09-14 2020

INTERVENTIONS

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TUVALU INTERVENTION NO 2.

1. 11.2 Universal health coverage: moving together to build a healthier world

Chair, Director General, Your Excellency, Honourable Ministers and Distinguished Delegates

2. Mr. President, on behalf of the Tuvalu delegation, I am honoured to deliver our country's statement on Universal Health Coverage: **moving together to build a healthier world**
3. For a small island state like Tuvalu with limited resources and a heavy reliance on aid funding and overseas technical assistance, achieving UHC is a challenge. But it is one we are embracing and continuously working towards to ensure equitable, affordable and accessible health services for all Tuvaluans.
4. Tuvalu's work to achieving UHC includes:
 - a. Primary Health care programs at clinics and outreach on all of Tuvalu's nine Islands,
 - b. Primary and secondary care services at the national hospital: and
 - c. A comprehensive 'free for all' domestic and overseas referral scheme for all Tuvaluans.
5. Apart from the coverage aspect of Universal Health, Tuvalu also recognises the need for better monitoring and reporting of health service plans and their delivery so that we can monitor and evaluate the QUALITY and COMPLETENESS of these packages of services.
6. Development partners are instrumental in assisting Tuvalu with achieving UHC. As an example, Taiwan sends Mobile Medical Missions every year to serve the Tuvaluan people. In 2019, psychiatrists focused on the treatment of children with autism. The same year, a Taiwan Medical Mission comprised of a cardiologist, a dermatologist, and a nutritionist during the Pacific Islands Forum. Taiwan also provides long-distance medical consultations for Tuvaluan patients.

7. To reiterate what I stated in my Primary Health care Intervention:

As we jointly plan our future investment in Health: we need to:

- a. Consider the Development of a comprehensive Primary Health Care Model whilst also focusing our efforts on safe surgery and clinical care.
 - Flip public mindsets and attitudes away from curative health being the solution and focus their attention on disease prevention and health promotion.
 - Embrace new technologies.

8. All of our initiatives must start with teaching our children healthy practices from an early age. Health literacy MUST be THE FOCUS for achieving UHC, so we absolutely need to co-opt our Education systems into our Health agenda.

9. To conclude, Tuvalu joins other member states to reiterate Taiwan's work in this space, including Taiwan's commitment to work and 'move together to build a better world'.

10. Hence, Tuvalu request Taiwan's inclusion as an Observer to the WHA.

Thank you