

Committee A

Agenda item 11.1: Universal Health Coverage

Delegation: Grenada

The Grenada Delegation welcomes the opportunity to deliver remarks to this 77th World Health Assembly on the important issue of Universal Health Coverage. We recognize the attainment of the highest level of health as a basic human right and necessary for our country's development.

The Grenada Government provides access to basic health services at no cost to the public. This includes primary healthcare, secondary and limited tertiary care. However, with increased life expectancy and a concomitant rise in prevalence of chronic-non-communicable diseases and their complications the demands on our health system have increased. At the same time the burden of communicable diseases, most notably acute respiratory infection and vector borne diseases continue to be major concerns.

Despite our government's efforts to guarantee access to health services to every individual in the population, many challenges remain. There is a lack of in-country access to many specialist services resulting in patients needing to travel overseas for care, and high out of pocket expenditure. The migration of our most skilled health workers is further compounding this situation and is compromising our ability to deliver even some basic services. Another challenge is the fact that the current system is largely illness oriented, and there are gaps in population health literacy and preventive programs.

Recognizing the challenges the Government of Grenada is working on the implementation of National Health Insurance to assure sustainable access to quality health services. The government has also embarked on revitalization of Primary Health Care as the priority approach, with the aim of addressing most of the health needs of the population at the first level of care. The government is also working with regional organizations such as PAHO/WHO and CARPHA to introduce evidence-based treatment guidelines such as the "HEARTS initiative" to improve the standards of care.

We ask for the continued support of the WHO and other partners as we navigate the complex challenges.

The Government of Grenada remains committed to the achievement of UHC and applauds the valuable leadership of WHO in this area.

Thank you

