

Committee A-Agenda item 11.1

EB154-6

Statement of I.R. Iran on "Universal health coverage"

We extend our appreciation to the UHC secretariat for this progress report.

The world stands at a pivotal juncture, halfway toward achieving the SDG 3.8 goal of UHC in 2030. This ambitious target aims to ensure that everyone receives high-quality health services without facing financial hardship. Unfortunately, as the report explains, progress has slowed since 2015, with some countries experiencing disruptions in their UHC efforts.

In response, high-level officials worldwide have committed to "expand the ambition for health and well-being in the post-COVID-19 era." To accelerate UHC achievement, countries must take strategic steps, supported by the secretariat and targeted interventions. Here are some recommendations:

1. Strengthen health Systems: Countries should prioritize strengthening their health and care networks. Robust systems attract domestic support, ensuring sufficient financing for equitable, efficient, and sustainable health services. By enhancing access, we can reach all citizens.
2. Political consultation for financial support: Governments should engage in political consultations to secure special funds in order to reduce out-of-pocket payments, which is crucial for expanding coverage and making quality health services accessible to all.

We would like to reiterate the four key components in achieving UHC:

- Prioritize primary health care as the foundation for UHC. It ensures comprehensive services, preventive measures, and early interventions.
- Foster collaboration across sectors to align effective policies and drive cooperation between health, education, and other domains
- Empower Communities by engaging those in decision-making so individuals contribute to better health outcomes and communities through self-care and improving health literacy
- 4- Applying artificial intelligence in improving care and disease prevention services

Leveraging experiences from successful countries, we recommend investing in education and empowering health sector professionals. Because those countries have demonstrated that increased national investment leads to quality and equitable health services.

Thank you for the floor, Mr. /Madam Chairperson.