

Statement of I.R. Iran on
“Preparation for the high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly
on universal health coverage”

First and foremost, I express my gratitude to the authors of the progress report. The report emphasizes coordination and preparation for the United Nations General Assembly on Universal Health Coverage.

Given that researching the health-oriented goals of universal health coverage by 2030 is crucial for countries, studies have revealed significant challenges. Those challenges include a lack of sustainable financial resources, particularly in developing nations. To fulfill their commitment to prioritize and implement policies and interventions for universal health coverage, countries and international organizations must fundamentally review their programs and policies.

One effective approach to address these challenges is to strengthen the primary health care system based on the global declaration made in 2018. In this context, I propose the following suggestions:

1. **Political Support and Commitment:** Executive and legislative branches of governments should provide high-level support for programs aimed at strengthening the primary health care system. Allocating sustainable resources to this endeavor is essential.
2. **Universal Health Insurance:** Prioritize the enhancement of universal health insurance programs for vulnerable groups.
3. **NGOs and Charities:** Leverage non-governmental organizations and charities to provide financial support for prevention and health promotion programs.
4. **Diverse funding sources:** Explore alternative financial resources, such as taxes on harmful goods, and allocate these funds to reinforce primary health care.
5. **Equity-Oriented Interventions:** Implement programs focused on Health Equity and Social Determinants of Health to promote public well-being.

6. **Knowledge Sharing:** Exchange experiences among countries, especially those that have successfully implemented intervention programs aligned with universal health coverage.
7. **Applied Research:** Invest in applied research related to universal health coverage to evaluate interventions effectively.