



## UN Agency Joint Statement at the UN High-Level Meeting on UHC 23/09/19 – made by UNICEF

I make this statement on behalf of UN members of UHC2030: UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNDP, ILO and IOM. Access to healthcare for all is recognised in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. However, billions of people do not enjoy this right, or are impoverished in the pursuit of good health and quality healthcare. The commitments made in the comprehensive declaration on UHC adopted today should dramatically improve the health of the world's most vulnerable people, and the health services available to them.

We welcome and commend the declaration. An overarching theme of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is progressive universalism. In achieving UHC, we must first prioritize those at greatest risk, including children, youth and the elderly; women and girls; the disabled or chronically ill; indigenous people and minorities and all remote, mobile and migrant populations. Their health is a determinant, outcome and indicator of sustainable development. To overcome the multiple risks to good health, physical and financial barriers to healthcare and widespread knowledge asymmetry, we recommend and commit to supporting coherent, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to UHC, explicitly involving civil society and community representatives, with appropriate accountability mechanisms.

These approaches should include a variety of health financing strategies, including social protection and domestic prioritization of health. As the declaration recognizes, "Moving together for a healthier world" will require Member States to leverage the full potential of the multilateral system. As entities of the UN system, we are ready to support countries in their efforts to achieve UHC.