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| **UHC2030 STEERING COMMITTEE**  **8th Session – 3-4 February 2021**  **Videoconference (zoom)** |



**The road to 2023:**

**Gearing up for UN HLM 2023**

**For Information**  **For Review & Advice**  **For Approval**

**The road to 2023:**

**Gearing up for the UN HLM 2023**

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| **Overview**  In 2019, UHC2030 convened a powerful movement of diverse voices around a set of UHC Key Asks. These fed into the Political Declaration adopted at the United Nations High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage: Moving Together to Build a Healthier World” (UN HLM), widely acknowledged as the most ambitious global health declaration in history. The 2019 Political Declaration included reference to a follow-up UN HLM in 2023.  The COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the urgency of UHC commitments. UHC2030 has provided a shared vision for health systems that protect everyone. The task now is to sustain political momentum and promote action and accountability for UHC ahead of the mid-point of the SDGs in 2023.  ***UHC2030’s role in accountability for UHC***  The Political Declaration on UHC has raised expectations of a range of stakeholders around the world, particularly for people who still do not have access to health care or are impoverished because they must pay for health services.  As part of the follow-up to the political declaration on UHC, the UN Secretary General issued the first progress report on UN HLM 2019 in November 2020, including contributions of UHC2030. UHC2030 is also contributing to strengthen accountability for UHC commitments by supporting civil society and communities to hold governments and leaders to account and ‘Keep the Promise’ made at the UN HLM. This includes support to UHC Day campaigns globally and in countries each year on 12 December. Around UHC Day 2020, UHC2030 published the first state of commitment to universal health coverage: synthesis, 2020 and 193 country profiles around.  ***Gearing up for 2023***  The UN HLM 2023 will be a crucial global moment for accountability for UHC commitments. It also provides an exciting opportunity for UHC 2030 to build on the vision of resilient health systems that are needed to achieve both UHC and health security goals. We can anticipate needing to reflect in 2023 on whether the world adapted to and built back better from COVID-19 by ensuring health for all, and how UHC2030 may have an important role in mobilizing and re-energizing a UHC movement.  To do this, we can build on our previous efforts which were successful in influencing the UN process. In 2018 and 2019, UHC2030 helped the President of the UN General Assembly (PGA) to mobilize multi-stakeholder partners in preparation for the UN HLM 2019. UHC2030 also supported the co-facilitators of the UN HLM 2019 and chair of the Group of Friends of UHC and Global Health (GOF) to ensure coordinated inputs from the movement to member states by developing the Key Asks from the UHC Movement and organizing informal briefing sessions.  In January 2021, the 75th PGA appointed Permanent Representatives of Guyana and Japan as co-facilitators for the intergovernmental process during the 75th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) by this September to define the scope and modalities for UN HLM 2023. This makes it timely for UHC2030 to consider what the HLM can achieve and how to engage with the process.  This paper has been prepared to guide the discussions of the Steering Committee during Session 2 – The road to 2023: Gearing up for UN HLM 2023. It provides an overview of potential opportunities for UHC2030 to contribute to the preparation for the UN HLM 2023 and our expectations for possible outcomes.  **Objective of the session:**  Identify potential expectations for outcomes of the UN HLM 2023 and proposed roles of UHC2030.  **Issues for Steering Committee consideration:**  The Steering Committee is invited to advise on the following two points:   1. **Potential expectations from UHC2030:**  * What are the critical outcomes that we would like the UN HLM 2023 to deliver? * What changes would we like to see prior to the UN HLM 2023?  1. **Proposed roles of UHC2030:**  * In addition to our contributions to the UN HLM 2019, are there any additional roles the Steering Committee would like to propose? * In addition to UHC2030 members and related initiatives, who should we work more closely with towards a successful UN HLM 2023? |

1. **Potential expectations from UHC2030**

What are the critical outcomes that we would like the UN HLM 2023 to deliver? For instance:

*In terms of UHC vision and goals:*

* Countries motivated by HLM to step up health systems investments and specific policy actions for UHC
* Meaningful reflection/learning – have countries built back better from COVID-19, what can be learned/shared from countries that did better?

*In terms of intermediate outcomes of the HLM process:*

* “Inclusive accountability”: Member states report progress towards 2019 UHC commitments in consultation with diverse country stakeholders, building on ‘State of UHC Commitment’.
* “Renewed action on SDG 3”: Political declaration reinforces clear and measurable UHC commitments, with specific milestones/actions to accelerate progress by 2030.
* “A path to 2030”: Only one UN HLM in health after 2023, linked strategically with SDG accountability processes.

What changes would we like to see prior to the UN HLM 2023? For example:

*In terms of action on UHC commitments:*

* Countries act on UHC commitments and invest in health systems
* COVID-19 prompts national debates on ensuring everyone, everywhere has access to health services – including that everyone, everywhere has access to COVID-19 vaccine

*In terms of accountability process and multi-stakeholder engagement:*

* Improved awareness of global and national UHC targets among multi-stakeholder partners.
* Continued emphasis on ‘health systems that protect everyone’ for both UHC and emergency preparedness
* Strong collaboration among different health communities and partnerships, with updated Key Asks to provide a common basis for joint advocacy efforts across health.
* UHC commitments to be captured and reviewed in Voluntary national reviews (VNRs 2021-2023), building on inclusive multistakeholder reviews embedded in national monitoring and review processes.
* Better alignment of UN HLMs follow-up processes (i.e. HIV/AIDS in 2021, TB in 2023, NCDs in 2025) and UN HLM 2023 process to be used for the SDG mid-term review in health.

1. **Proposed roles of UHC2030**

UHC2030’s main contributions to UN HLM 2019 were: 1. multi-stakeholder engagement (e.g. preparation of multi-stakeholder hearing and panel sessions); 2. consolidating and promoting a clear set of messages (the Key Asks); and 3. communications and support to partners (e.g. UN HLM 2019 webpage and informal briefing sessions).

Should UHC2030 again play these roles? Are there additional roles the Steering Committee would like to propose? UHC2030’s roles must be defined in the modality resolution to ensure our contributions to the preparatory process. For example, in the modality resolution for UN HLM 2019, UHC2030’s role was explicitly referred to as:

*“8.* ***Invites*** *the United Nations system, including funds, programmes and specialized agencies…, and* ***urges them to consider relevant initiatives, such as the******International Health Partnership for UHC 2030, in support of the preparatory process******and the meeting****, particularly with regard to sharing evidence and good practices, challenges and lessons learned;” (*[*A/RES/73/131*](https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/73/131)*)*

Possible roles include:

* Make the most use of the synthesis and country profiles of the State of UHC Commitment for the preparation of UN HLM 2023 (e.g. multi-stakeholder hearing, SG’s progress report, political declaration zero draft, statements of member states in the meeting).
* Organize regional multi-stakeholder consultations prior to the multi-stakeholder hearing (e.g. on the margins of regional forums for sustainable development in 2023).
* Stimulate public dialogue on UHC prior to the UN HLM 2023 (e.g. UHC Day in 2022).
* Mobilise high-level UHC champions from the UHC Movement Political Advisory Panel and other partners in the opening segment and other relevant high-level sessions from the UHC Movement Political Advisory Panel to convey our messages.

In addition to UHC2030 members and health system related initiatives, who should we work more closely with towards UN HLM 2023? Obviously, the primary role of UHC2030 is to ensure the involvement of relevant stakeholders in the preparatory process for UN HLM 2023. For instance, we worked intensively with STOP TB Partnership for UN HLM 2019 and may want to build on this experience to involve other partnerships. In addition, we may want to consider how to work more closely with critical players such as parliamentarians, local governments and a range of social right activities to strengthen the UHC Movement beyond health.

**Background information: Official processes for UN HLM and SDGs**

* H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir, President of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly appointed H.E. Ms. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Permanent Representative of Guyana and H.E. Mr. Ishikane Kimihiro, Permanent Representative of Japan as co-facilitators for the intergovernmental process to define the scope and modalities for UN HLM 2023.

[*Ref: Co-facilitator appointment letter issued by 75th PGA*](https://www.un.org/pga/75/wp-content/uploads/sites/100/2021/01/UHC-Co-Facs-Appointment-Letter.pdf)

* UN HLM 2023 milestones anticipated between 2021 and 2023 include:

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| **2021** | **New York, USA** | **Resolution on scope and modalities for UN HLM 2023 (during 75th UNGA – by early September)** |
| **2022–2023** | **New York, USA** | **SG’s report on implementation of UHC political declaration with recommendations (to 77th UNGA)** |
| **2023** | **TBC** | **Multi-stakeholder hearing for UN HLM 2023 (TBC)** |
| **2023** | **TBC** | **UN HLM 2023** |

[*Ref: Political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage (A/RES/74/2)*](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/2)

* The High-Level Political Forum will be held from 6 to 15 July 2021, under the Economic and Social Council, including the three-day ministerial segment from 13 to 15 July 2021. The theme this year will include SDG 3 and be "Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development".

[Ref: High-Level Political Forum 2021 (HLPF 2021)](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2021)

* Milestones for HLPF 2021 preparation include the following regional events:

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| **1-5 March** | **Republic of Congo (hybrid)** | **Economic Commission for Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development** |
| **17-18 March** | **Geneva (hybrid)** | **Economic Commission for Europe Regional Forum on Sustainable Development** |
| **22-25 March** | **Bangkok (virtual)** | **Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Regional Forum on Sustainable Development** |
| **March** | **Beirut (virtual)** | **Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Regional Forum on Sustainable Development** |
| **April** | **Costa Rica (virtual)** | **Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Forum on Sustainable Development** |
| **6-15 July** | **New York (hybrid)** | **High-Level Political Forum 2021** |

*[Ref: High-Level Political Forum 2021 (HLPF 2021) preparation](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2021" \l "preparation" \o "https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2021#preparation)*

***For further information:***

* [*High Level Meeting on UHC 2019 (UHC2030)*](https://www.uhc2030.org/what-we-do/voices/advocacy/high-level-meeting-on-uhc-2019/)
* [*UHC Movement Political Advisory Panel*](https://www.uhc2030.org/about-us/governance/uhc-movement-political-advisory-panel/)
* [*Key Asks from the UHC Movement (2019)*](https://www.uhc2030.org/what-we-do/voices/advocacy/key-asks-from-the-uhc-movement/)
* [*State of UHC Commitments (UHC Day microsite)*](https://universalhealthcoverageday.org/commitments/) *and* [*Country Profiles (UHC portal)*](https://www.uhc2030.org/what-we-do/knowledge-and-networks/uhc-data-portal/)
* [*Report of the Secretary-General: An inclusive approach to strengthening health systems in the context of universal health coverage (A/75/577)*](https://www.undocs.org/en/A/75/577)*, including UN HLM 2019 progress*
* [*From commitment to action: political leadership and overall approach UHC2030/SC6/2019/11/Rev.1*](https://www.uhc2030.org/fileadmin/uploads/uhc2030/Documents/About_UHC2030/mgt_arrangemts___docs/UHC2030_SC_meetings_as_of_2017/SC6_meeting_Dec_2019/04._SC6_UHC2030_HLM_followup_From_commitment_to_action_Rev1.pdf)