



UHC2030 STEERING COMMITTEE

10TH SESSION – 8 & 10 MARCH 2022

VIDEOCONFERENCE (ZOOM)

Preparing for UN HLM 2023: A chance not to be missed to get UHC back on track

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

UN HLM 2023: Getting UHC back on track

Overview

In September 2019, at the United Nations High-Level Meeting “Universal Health Coverage: Moving Together to Build a Healthier World,” world leaders endorsed the most ambitious and comprehensive political declaration on health in history. However, UHC progress is not on track, and the COVID-19 pandemic seems to bring the world further away from the 2023 targets set by the political declaration which include: i) progressively covering 1 billion additional people, with a view of covering all people by 2030; and ii) to stop the rise and reverse the trend of catastrophic out-of-pocket health expenditure and eliminate impoverishment due to health-related expenses by 2030. Many countries have made a wide range of commitments to UHC, set national targets, and prioritised equity in their UHC commitments. However, gaps persist between policy, implementation and results. Making progress towards achieving UHC has never been more urgent. In response to an important lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, the [UHC2030 strategic narrative to guide advocacy and action on health systems for UHC and health security goals](#) makes it clear that strengthening health systems, with a focus on primary health care, provides the foundations for both UHC and health security. Health is an investment in the future well-being and safety of all and contributes to broader socio-economic progress and prosperity.

The United Nations General Assembly decided in August 2021 to organise the one-day high-level meeting on UHC (UN HLM) in New York in September 2023. The interactive multi-stakeholder hearing will be scheduled before the end of June 2023. The Secretary-General will issue a progress report in early 2023.

In 2019, UHC2030 convened a powerful movement of diverse voices around a set of UHC Key Asks, which fed into the Political Declaration. UHC2030 is expected to play a similar role in the next UN HLM.

This paper has been prepared to guide the discussions of the Steering Committee during Session 1 – **Preparing for UN HLM 2023: a chance not to be missed to get UHC back on track**. The outcomes of the discussion will provide a basis to leverage different political processes in 2022 and ensure greater alignment on the way to 2023.

Session objectives:

- Review ways to make the UN HLM 2023 and its potential outcome document a meaningful political tool to bring progress towards UHC back on track on the road towards 2030
- Identify contributions of UHC2030 members/constituencies to the UN HLM preparations and opportunities to build momentum in 2022.

Issues for Steering Committee consideration:

i Vision and goals

- How can we take full advantage of the UN HLM in 2023 as an opportunity to get UHC progress back on track?
- What are the key outcomes to aim for?

ii Contribution to preparations

- **State of UHC Commitment.** To make the link to accountability for the 2019 UN HLM commitments and implementation in countries, how can different constituencies a) help collect data for the State of UHC commitment and b) promote and use country profiles with governments and other stakeholders to strengthen national advocacy and accountability ahead of the UN HLM?
- **Multi-stakeholder consultations.** How can your constituency support the multi-stakeholder consultation process at the national, regional, and global levels to update UHC Key Asks?

iii Building the momentum

- **Our influencing strategy.** Why do we need to reach and influence, within and beyond health, to secure meaningful HLM outcomes? How will different constituencies use the updated Key Asks with these decision-makers to influence both the political declaration and action in countries? What will you do?
- **Opportunities in 2022.** What are the specific opportunities and concrete actions to influence key processes in 2022 on the way to 2023 (for discussion on Day 2)?

1 Background

In September 2019, at [the United Nations High-Level Meeting “Universal Health Coverage: Moving Together to Build a Healthier World,”](#) world leaders endorsed the most ambitious and comprehensive political declaration on health in history ([A/RES/74/2](#)). However, according to [the latest global monitoring report on universal health coverage \(UHC\)](#) of WHO and the World Bank, progress made in service coverage over the past 20 years is likely to be offset by the COVID-19 pandemic while reducing financial hardship remained a challenge, with persistent inequalities. Without accounting for the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, at current rates of progress for both service coverage and financial hardship the world is 730 million short of the 1 billion target of people who were projected to be covered by essential health services and not experiencing catastrophic out-of-pocket health spending by 2023.

[UHC2030’s state of UHC commitment review in 2021](#) also finds out that many countries have made a wide range of commitments to UHC, set national targets, recognised the importance of UHC and prioritised equity in their UHC commitments. However, gaps persist between policy, implementation and results. Achievement of UHC has never been more urgent. The pandemic has reinforced the conclusion that countries must invest in resilient and equitable health systems based on primary health care (PHC) to achieve both UHC and health security. Health is an investment in the future well-being and safety of all and contributes to broader socio-economic progress and prosperity.

2 Expectations from UHC2030

The UN HLM UHC 2023 offers an opportunity not to be missed to take the necessary action to get UHC back on track in accelerating progress towards UHC by 2030 and ensure prioritisation of investment in strengthening health systems that leave non-one’s health behind, both in crisis and in calm. This requires political commitment and collective action, involving all stakeholders in shaping and contributing to decisions and action for stronger health systems, particularly in the context of COVID-19 response and recovery. It builds on previous discussion of the Steering Committee meeting in February 2021 on potential opportunities for UHC2030 to contribute to the preparation for the UN HLM 2023 and

our expectations for possible outcomes.¹ Critical outcomes for the next high-level meeting could include:

- Countries motivated to step up investment in resilient and equitable health systems and specific policy actions for UHC, through a primary health care approach;
- “Renewed action on SDG 3”: Political declaration reinforces clear and measurable UHC commitments, with specific milestones/actions to accelerate equitable progress by 2030;
- “Inclusive accountability”: Member states report progress towards 2019 UHC commitments in consultation with diverse country stakeholders of UHC2030; and
- “A path to 2030”: Comprehensive review of global health commitments linked strategically with SDG accountability processes.
- In tandem with the pandemic treaty negotiations, countries commit to core minimum health systems capacities as the basis for UHC and health security.

3 Expected Formal Process

The United Nations General Assembly resolution on scope, modalities, format and organisation of the high-level meeting on UHC ([A/RES/75/315](#)) adopted in August 2021 decided that the President of the General Assembly will convene **the one-day high-level meeting on UHC** at United Nations Headquarters in New York on the third day of the general debate of the 78th session Assembly of the General Assembly **in September 2023**. **The interactive multi-stakeholder hearing** for the high-level meeting will be organised **before the end of June 2023**, with the active participation of key stakeholders. The UN General Assembly invites the UN systems to consider relevant initiatives, such as UHC2030, in support of the preparatory process and the high-level meeting.

The political declaration of the high-level meeting on UHC ([A/RES/74/2](#)) requested **the Secretary-General to provide a report including recommendations on the implementation of the present declaration** towards achieving UHC during the 77th session of the General Assembly (2022-2023), which will serve to inform the next high-level meeting. In 2020-2021, the Secretary-General issued two progress reports on UHC ([A 76 492](#) and [A 75 577](#)) as well as [a policy brief on COVID-19 and UHC](#).

4 Expected Roles of UHC2030

In 2019, UHC2030 convened a powerful movement of diverse voices around a [set of Key Asks](#), which fed into the Political Declaration. [UHC2030’s main contributions to UN HLM 2019](#) were: 1. multi-stakeholder engagement (e.g. multi-stakeholder hearing and panel sessions); 2. consolidating and promoting a clear set of messages (Key Asks); and 3. communications and support to partners (e.g. UN HLM webpage and informal briefing sessions). In the next UN HLM, UHC2030 would play the following roles in close collaboration with identified multi-stakeholder partners by the UN HLM 2023 modality resolution²:

¹See document: The Road to 2023: Gearing up for UN HLM 2023, [06.SC8 UHC2030 Road to 2023 Rev1](#) + note for the record.

²Modality resolution para 5. *“Requests the President of the General Assembly, with the support of the World Health Organization and other relevant partners, to organize and preside over an interactive multi-stakeholder hearing, before the end of June 2023, with the active participation of appropriate senior-level representatives of Member States, observers of the General Assembly, parliamentarians, representatives of local governments, relevant United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, invited civil society organizations, philanthropic foundations, academia, medical associations, the private sector and broader communities, ensuring the participation and voices of women, children, youth and indigenous leadership, as part of the preparatory process for the high-level meeting, and also requests the President to prepare a summary of the hearing prior to the high-level meeting;”*

1. Make the most use of [the State of UHC Commitment review](#) for the preparation of UN HLM (**see box 1 on initial plans for review in 2022 and key challenges identified in reviews 2020-2021**):
 - a. Update [Key Asks](#) based on our review and multi-stakeholder consultation: resources for multi-stakeholder hearing, inputs to political declaration zero draft
 - b. Extract key findings and recommendations from our review: UNSG's progress report and recommendations to UN HLM
 - c. Disseminate [country profiles](#): In-country multi-stakeholder process, inter-governmental process, preparation of country statements in UN HLM
2. Stimulate public and multi-stakeholder attention on UHC agenda prior to UN HLM:
 - a. UNGA side event/informal briefing session/additional thematic briefings in September 2022 (with GOF)
 - b. [UN HLM information webpage as a go-to-place for useful resources](#) and regular updates newsflash (managed by UHC2030)
 - c. [UHC Day campaign](#) in December 2022 (powered by UHC2030)
 - d. World Health Assembly side event/technical briefing session in May 2023 (with WHO)
3. Organise regional multi-stakeholder consultations prior to the multi-stakeholder hearing on the margins of regional forums for sustainable development in March-April 2023:
 - a. Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
 - b. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
 - c. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
 - d. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
 - e. Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
4. Support preparation of UN HLM multi-stakeholder hearings and multi-stakeholder panels in 2023, including areas of multi-sectoral action, synergies between SDG3 and other SDGs
5. 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 of UN HLM
6. Work with [the Coalition of Partnerships](#) (**see box 2**) to advocate a more comprehensive and ambitious declaration, in line with [the global health commitments 2015-2030](#)
7. [Other](#) support to multi-stakeholder consultation processes at the national, regional, and global levels and leverage opportunities to mobilise political leadership as needed (**see box 3 for an overview of how to build momentum in 2022**).

Box 1 Initial plans for the State of UHC Commitment review in 2022 and key challenges identified in reviews 2020-2021

The first State of UHC Commitment review (a synthesis report and baseline country profiles of 193 UN member states) was published in December 2020. In 2021, UHC2030 reviewed the progress of the State of UHC Commitment in 45 countries (mainly HLPF VNR countries in 2021). Based on the review, UHC2030 released updated online dashboards of 45 country profiles and published a synthesis of key findings from the review on International UHC Day (12 December 2021). For 2022-2023, it is planned to review the in-depth progress of additional 90-100 countries (primarily HLPF VNR countries in 2019, 2020 and 2023) and update the online dashboards of all 193 countries as part of the preparation of the UN high-level meeting on UHC (scheduled in September 2023). Based on key findings from the review, UHC2030 also plans to update UHC Key Asks and feed into UN SG's progress report for UN HLM 2023, and will publish a synthesis of the State of UHC Commitment in December 2023.

Key challenges of our project identified in the reviews 2020-2021 were the followings:

- Low response rate of data collection survey from countries

- Insufficient quality of survey data to update country profiles
- UHC data from UN official statistics are outdated – latest available data are still before UN HLM 2019; hard to present UHC progress together with UHC commitments
- Lack of equity disaggregated data of UHC indicators – difficult to identify people left behind in UHC progress
- Lack of institutional support for data collection by hosting agencies
- Lack of constituency support for country outreach beyond CSEM channel
- Lack of engagement of UHC2030 country members to use our materials for meaningful accountability work in their countries
- Limited budget and capacity to organise country consultations

Overview of approach for 2022 and 2023

2022	Tasks
March-April	Update of the analytical framework, data collection tool re-design, collect and analyse user feedback on the country profile dashboards
May-July	Data collection, revise country profile dashboard templates
August- September	Data analysis
October-November	Country profiles update, data portal update
December	Country profiles release

2023	Tasks
January-March	Extract key findings emerging from the reviews 2019-2022
March-August	Minor updates of profiles (e.g. if new statistics available), troubleshooting for the country profile dashboards as needed
September	Collect new commitments made by individual member states during the UN HLM 2023 and extract outcomes of the high-level meeting
October-November	Synthesis 2023 preparation
December	Synthesis 2023 release

Find out more: <https://www.uhc2030.org/what-we-do/voices/accountability/state-of-uhc-commitment/>

Box 2 The Coalition of Partnerships for UHC and Global Health

Recognising the need for greater collaboration and harmonisation across health stakeholders and programmes, the Coalition of Partnerships for UHC and Global Health unites health leaders and advocates in a common goal to align advocacy and accountability efforts to achieve UHC and advance the SDGs. The Coalition brings together a wide range of thematic areas, and its members include Stop TB Partnership, WHO Global NCD Platform, Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH), the RBM Partnership to End Malaria, UNAIDS, UHC2030, and the NCD Alliance.

The Coalition will work together to assist the Member States and other stakeholders in:

- Accelerating high-level political efforts around socio-political accountability based on country-led, evidence-based progress reviews that involve all stakeholders in order to enhance accountability under the past UN HLM political declarations and ensure UHC delivers for vulnerable populations, including women, children and adolescents.
- Supporting coordination among the various existing health initiatives and joint follow-up actions of UN HLMs (e.g. UHC, HIV/AIDS, AMR, TB, NCDs) for the preparation of the future UN HLMs on health agenda, including emergency preparedness.

- Strengthening existing SDG accountability mechanisms, such as the High-Level Political Forum follow-up mechanisms, to identify gaps and solutions and to scale up efforts on health-related SDGs by 2023 and beyond.

Since July 2021, the Coalition members have been working together to produce the following publications:

- [The Coalition introductory brochure](#)
- [BMJ Op-ed: Let's reverse our slogans: no healthy life without universal health coverage](#)
- [Global Health Commitments 2015-2030](#)
- [Key Coalition messages for UHC Day 2021: Leave No One's Health Behind – Invest in Health Systems for All](#)
- [UHC Day 2021 Champion Video \[long version\]](#)

Find out more: <https://www.uhc2030.org/what-we-do/voices/advocacy/the-coalition-of-partnerships-for-uhc-and-global-health/>

Box 3 - Overview of how to build momentum in 2022 on the way to 2023

The UHC2030 Steering Committee agreed in September 2021 to use **a shared narrative on the importance of equitable and resilient health systems, and use this consistently to make the case for resilient and equitable systems** – and where possible collectively – in communication, advocacy, funding, and programming decisions, including in the run-up to the UN HLM 2023.

The list below provides an initial overview of influencing opportunities in 2022 (and 2023) which Steering Committee to consider for individual constituencies to influence outcomes of key processes in 2022 and 2023, with a view of aligning with and feeding into UN HLM preparation.

i Global level:

- G7 and G20 Presidencies (Germany, Japan and Indonesia, India respectively): e.g. to ensure health systems and UHC are referenced in the political agenda and health and political communiqués, not only in the context of health security and COVID-19.
- Pandemic treaty negotiations: e.g. why and how to include UHC in a pandemic treaty
- Global Fund replenishment: e.g. to ensure that future Global Fund investments align with national priorities for health systems strengthening for UHC – a coherent systems approach that supports long-term capacity building.

ii Regional level

- Entry points for greater engagement with relevant regional structures (WHO, political regional groupings like AU, EU): e.g. to influence key regional political processes through their different forums, including parliamentary forums

iii Country level

- Ways to enhance country engagement and promote a common voice among constituencies on health systems funding and support: e.g. through the availability of common positions on key issues on health systems for UHC and health security; building and using the State of UHC commitment review data/products to shape advocacy and accountability, CSEM country consultations, etc.

UHC2030 members should identify, prepare for and participate actively in key upcoming meetings and events on UHC and health security (see tables 1 and 2 in the document)

Find out more:

- UHC2030's "health systems strengthening push": [Action on health systems, for universal health coverage and health security](#) (as approved after SC meeting on 14-15 September 2021)
- [The UHC2030 Background paper - Influencing opportunities for HSS \(SC meeting, 14-15 September 2021\)](#) provides a list of upcoming meetings and events on UHC and health security (see tables 1 and 2) which UHC2030 members can use as a basis for prioritization, preparation and participation.

5 Provisional Timeline³

The main process for UN HLM will start in early 2023 (see timeline below). 2022 will be the year of background preparation to track progress of UHC commitments to help us revise Key Asks based on key findings and recommendations from the multi-stakeholder review. In 2022, UNGA and UHC Day will be opportunities to stimulate public and multi-stakeholder attention on UHC agenda before UN HLM 2023.



³ In addition to UN processes, there will be other potential opportunities to mobilise specific group of countries, such as: G7 (2023 Chair: Japan), G20 (2023 Chair: India), G77 (2023 Chair: TBC), etc.

Annexes

Official processes for UN HLM 2023:

- 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](#)
- President of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly will appoint co-facilitators for the intergovernmental process to prepare outcomes of UN HLM 2023.
- UN HLM 2023 milestones anticipated between 2022 and 2023 include:

2022 Q3/4	New York, USA	Appoint co-facilitators for UN HLM 2023 outcomes
2023 Q1/2	New York, USA	SG's report on implementation of UHC political declaration with recommendations (to 77th UNGA)
2023 May	Geneva, Switzerland	World Health Assembly resolution on UN HLM 2023 preparation
2023 June	New York, USA	Multi-stakeholder hearing for UN HLM 2023
2023 Q2/3	New York, USA	Intergovernmental process to prepare outcomes of UN HLM 2023
2023 September	New York, USA	UN HLM 2023

[Ref: Scope, modalities, format and organisation of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage \(A/RES/75/315\)](#)

Resolutions:

- [Scope, modalities, format and organisation of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage \(A/RES/75/315\)](#) [Date: 19 August 2021]
- [Global health and foreign policy: strengthening health system resilience through affordable health care for all \(A/RES/75/130\)](#) [Date: 21 December 2020]
- [Global health and foreign policy: an inclusive approach to strengthening health systems \(A/RES/74/20\)](#) [Date: 28 January 2020]
- [Political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage \(A/RES/74/2\)](#) [Date: 18 October 2019]
- [Preparation for the high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on universal health coverage \(WHA72.4\)](#) [Date: 24 May 2019]
- [Scope, modalities, format and organisation of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage \(A/RES/73/131\)](#) [Date: 9 January 2019]
- [Declaration of Astana: Global Conference on Primary Health Care From Alma-Ata towards universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals](#) [Date: 26 October 2018]
- [Global health and foreign policy: addressing the health of the most vulnerable for an inclusive society \(A/RES/72/139\)](#) [Date: 15 January 2018]

Reports and Briefs:

- [Report of the Secretary-General: Strengthening health system resilience through affordable health care for all as well as improving international coordination and cooperation to address the health needs of all States during health emergencies \(A/76/492\)](#) [Date: 26 October 2021]
- [Report of the Secretary-General: An inclusive approach to strengthening health systems in the context of universal health coverage \(A/75/577\)](#) [Date: 5 November 2020]
- [Policy Brief of the Secretary-General: COVID-19 and Universal Health Coverage](#) [Date: October 2020]
- [Tracking Universal Health Coverage: 2021 Global monitoring report](#) [Date: 12 December 2021]
- [Primary health care on the road to universal health coverage: 2019 monitoring report](#) [Date: September 2019]
- [Report by the Director-General: Universal health coverage Primary health care towards universal health coverage \(A72/12\)](#) [Date: 1 April 2019]
- [Report by the Director-General: Preparation for the high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on universal health coverage \(A72/14\)](#) [Date: 25 March 2019]
- [Tracking Universal Health Coverage: 2017 Global Monitoring Report](#) [Date: 10 January 2017]
- [Tracking universal health coverage: first global monitoring report](#) [Date: 3 May 2015]
- [Monitoring progress towards universal health coverage at country and global levels: framework, measures and targets](#) [Date: 30 April 2014]

International UHC Day campaign since 2018:

- 2021: [Leave No One's Health Behind: Invest in health systems for all](#)
- 2020: Protect Everyone ([campaign report](#))
- 2019: Keep the Promise of Health For All ([campaign report](#))
- 2018: Unite for Universal Health Coverage: Now is the time for collective action ([campaign report](#))

UHC Political Advocacy and Social Accountability (UHC2030):

- [State of commitment to universal health coverage: Synthesis 2021](#) [December 2021]
- [State of commitment to universal health coverage: Country Profiles](#) [December 2021]
- [State of commitment to universal health coverage: Synthesis 2020](#) [December 2020]
- [The UN high-level meeting on UHC: Key targets, commitments and actions](#) [December 2019]
- [Key Asks from the UHC Movement for the UN high-level meeting on UHC](#) [April 2019]

Health programmes/partnerships' references (The Coalition of Partnerships):

- [2015–2030 Global Health Commitments Adopted by the UN General Assemblies](#) [November 2021]
- [Let's reverse our slogans: no healthy life without universal health coverage](#) [September 2021]
- [The Coalition of Partnerships for UHC and Global Health](#) [July 2021]