

**WHA Technical Briefing**  
**From commitment to action: Parliaments moving the UHC agenda forward**

**23 May 2018**  
**12.30-14.00, Room XVI, Palais des Nations**

Every human being, without distinction of any kind, has the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of oneself and one's family. Health is a precondition for, and an outcome and indicator of, sustainable development. Yet despite the progress made, challenges in global health, including major inequities and vulnerabilities within and among countries, regions and populations, remain and demand reinforced attention.

At least half of the world's population still do not have full coverage of essential health services. About 100 million people are still being pushed into "extreme poverty" (living on 1.90 USD or less a day) because they have to pay for health care. Over 800 million people (almost 12% of the world's population) spent at least 10% of their household budgets to pay for health care.

The solution is Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

UHC means that all people and communities can use the promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services they need, of sufficient quality to be effective, while also ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the user to financial hardship. UHC enables everyone to access the services that address the most important causes of disease and death and ensures that the quality of those services is good enough to improve the health of the people who receive them.

The international community has committed to achieving UHC by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals. A global resolution on UHC will be adopted by the United Nations at a High-Level Meeting in September 2019.

Parliaments have a critical role to play in accelerating progress towards UHC and in ensuring that all individuals and communities receive the health services they need without suffering financial hardship. Key parliamentary actions are required in terms of legislation, accountability, advocacy and budget allocation.

To underline the parliamentary commitment to UHC, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is preparing a resolution on *Achieving Universal Health Coverage by 2030: the role of Parliaments in ensuring the right to health*, which is planned to be adopted in October 2019 at the 141st IPU Assembly. As part of this process, a global consultation with parliamentarians took place in April 2019.

The purpose of the WHA Technical Briefing is to highlight the significance of parliamentary action on UHC, to discuss how parliaments can address key UHC challenges, and to provide inputs to the development of the IPU resolution on UHC. It also aims at discussing how this commitment can be translated into concrete actions at national and regional level.

Participants in the Technical Briefing are expected to include governmental officials, civil society organizations, scientists and parliamentarians, as well as other interested parties attending the WHA.

## Program

<b>Introductory remarks</b> <b>10 minutes</b>		
12.30-12.35 5 minutes	Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General	UHC at the core of the global health agenda
12.35-12.40 5 minutes	Mr Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General	How the IPU is mobilizing parliaments to move the UHC agenda forward
<b>Keynote presentations</b> <b>18 minutes</b>		
12.40-12.43 3 minutes	Moderator: Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab, Deputy Director-General, WHO (tbc)	Brief introduction on the IPU resolution on UHC and presentation of co-rapporteurs
12.43-12.48 5 minutes	Hon. Prof. Habibe Millat, Member of Parliament of Bangladesh, Chair of the IPU Advisory Group on Health, co-rapporteur of the IPU resolution on UHC	Introduction on the IPU debate on UHC and the linkages between UHC and GHS
12.48-12.53 5 minutes	Hon. Christian Lohr, Member of Parliament of Switzerland, co-rapporteur of the IPU resolution on UHC	Introduction on key outcomes of the IPU debate: leaving no one behind and tackling socio-economic determinants of health
12.53-12.58 5 minutes	Hon. Mariana Carvalho, Member of Parliament of Brazil, co-rapporteur of the IPU resolution on UHC	Introduction on key outcomes of the IPU debate: working outside of the health sector and promoting inclusive decision-making processes
<b>Panel</b> <b>32 minutes</b> <b>How we move from the IPU resolution to country implementation</b>		
12.58-13.00 2 minutes	Moderator: Ms Jane Ellison, Executive Director for External Relations and Governance	Introduction on the objective of the panel and presentation of speakers
13.00-13.30 30 minutes	Mr Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General  Minister of Health of Fiji (tbc)  Representative from the EURO Regional Platform (tbc)  Hon. Dr Alouini Souhail, Member of Parliament of Tunisia, President of the Health and Social Affairs Commission, Chair of the EMRO Parliamentary network on Health and Well-being	Moderated discussion on key parliamentary actions to be included in the IPU resolution on UHC, country implementation and monitoring.
<b>Discussion</b> <b>28 minutes</b> From commitment to action: Discussion of key issues on UHC and input to the IPU resolution from all stakeholders		
13.30-13.58 28 minutes	Discussion facilitated by the moderator	
<b>Conclusions</b> <b>2 minutes</b>		
13.58-14.00 2 minutes	Moderator: Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab, Deputy Director-General (tbc)	Summary of key issues and way forward