
**World Health Organization
EB 144 – January 2019**

5.5 Universal Health Coverage

Thank you Madam Chair,

We would like to thank the Director General and the secretariat for preparing the report. We highly appreciate the up-to-date data on high spending on health included in this report and we are alarmed by the scale of this phenomenon.

Lacking UHC, people around the world inevitably have to make "out-of-the-pocket" spending on health services and consequently, millions of people are pushed into poverty. Hence, achieving Universal Health Coverage would not only benefit individual's health, but would support our continuous efforts to fight poverty.

Considering ways forward, we would like to emphasize one point.

UHC in itself cannot be affective in contexts where existing health systems are fragile. Promoting UHC in such instances may be counterproductive, leading to the over burdening of national health systems and negatively affecting the quality of existing services. Strengthening national health systems is thus of high priority in this regard. This should be achieved through support, guidance and technical assistance for better allocation of national funds and effective measurements insure sustainable health systems.

We welcome the UNGA's decision to convene a high level meeting later this year on this important topic and support the draft resolution on this topic.

We thank you chair.