

---

**World Health Organization**  
**WHA 72 – May 2019**

**Committee A (11.5)**  
**Primary Health Care**

---

Thank you chair.

We would like to thank the Director General and the secretariat for the preparatory report for this item.

Last year we reaffirmed our shared commitment to primary health care, in Astana Kazakhstan. We see the “Astana Declaration” as an important development that was undoubtedly called for .

A strong primary health care system should remain a high priority for all countries given the new challenges our health systems are facing. In this regard, we would like to emphasize two points .

Firstly, primary health care is crucial in addressing the increasing burden of noncommunicable diseases on health systems. Indeed, early detection, treatment and prevention are strongly linked to successful management of chronic disease.

Israel has established a big data strategy in order to support and encourage nation-wide studies on NCDs. Our goal is to develop new methods for early detection, management and prevention of NCD's. In addition, we introduced a nationwide food labeling campaign. We see it as our responsibility to enable Israeli consumers make knowledgeable decisions concerning their and their loved ones nutrition.

Secondly, the importance of qualified community health workers in achieving primary health care is crucial. We believe a comprehensive education, PG training and constructing multi-disciplinary teams would be an essential step in establishing better community-based services which are a corner stone in future PHC structures .

Strengthening primary health care thus remains relevant and is essential in tackling new health challenges, as well as a necessary foundation to achieving Universal Health Coverage .

We trust that the WHO will provide the support Member States need in order to achieve the goals set forth in the Astana declaration. We support in particular tools and best practices for food labeling, infection prevention and enabling healthy choices.

We would like to support the resolution presented to us under this agenda item.

I thank you for your attention.