

71st WHA TECHNICAL BRIEFING**The role of Parliamentarians in achieving universal health coverage and global health security as two sides of the same coin**

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.

Achieving UHC, including for the most marginalized and vulnerable groups of our societies, such as women, children, adolescents and the elderly, is a crucial objective for each and every country. UHC enables all people to receive the health services they need throughout their lives without suffering financial hardship.

UHC also includes health promotion and prevention and requires a broad public health approach to strengthening health systems. As the best defence to prevent disease outbreaks from becoming epidemics, and to respond to health emergencies, strong health systems are the best way to safeguard against health crises. In this way, UHC and global health security are two sides of the same coin.

UHC and global health security are key pillars to the achievement of the SDGs, but ultimately they are a political choice. It is the responsibility of every country to pursue them, and parliamentarians have a key role to play in moving national health agendas forward.

This technical briefing will provide an opportunity to hear the voice of parliamentarians and share experiences on concrete actions in terms of legislation, accountability, budget allocation and advocacy.

The briefing will also serve the purpose of sharing with parliamentarians the 13th WHO General Programme of Work (2019-2023).

Chair:

Ms Michèle Boccoz,
WHO Assistant Director-
General for External Relations

Introductory remarks:

Dr Tedros Adhanom
Ghebreyesus,
WHO Director-General

Mr Martin Chungong,
IPU Secretary General

Panel:

Dr Habibe Millat,
Member of Parliament of
Bangladesh, Chair of the IPU
Advisory Group on Health

Ms Petra Bayr,
Member of Parliament of
Austria, Vice-Chair of the IPU
Advisory Group on Health

Dr Serik Bekturganov,
Member of the Senate of
Kazakhstan, Secretary of the
Committee on Socio-Cultural
Development and Science

Mr Oscar Rwegasira Mukasa,
Member of Parliament of
Tanzania

Dr Michelle Bachelet,
Former President of Chile,
Chair of PMNCH

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