

WHA Technical Briefing

From commitment to action: Parliaments moving the UHC agenda forward

23 May 2019
12.30-14.00, Room XVI, Palais des Nations

The international community has committed to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals. A political declaration on UHC should be adopted by the United Nations General Assembly following its approval in the High-Level Meeting in September 2019.

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.

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.

The purpose of the World Health Assembly 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 levels.

Programme

Introductory remarks 10 minutes		
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
Keynote presentations 18 minutes		
12.40-12.43 3 minutes	Moderator: Dr Zsuzsanna JAKAB, Deputy Director-General, WHO	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

Panel 32 minutes		How we move from the IPU resolution to country implementation	
12.58-13.00 2 minutes	Moderator: Dr Zsuzsanna JAKAB, Deputy Director-General, WHO	Introduction on the objective of the panel and presentation of speakers	
13.00-13.30 30 minutes	<p>Dr. Ifereimi WAQAINABETE, Minister of for Health and Medical Service and Member of Parliament of Fiji</p> <p>Ms. Oxana DOMENTI, Ambassador, Permanent Representative Republic of Moldova to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva</p> <p>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</p> <p>Ms. Kareen JABRE, Director, Division of Programmes, Inter-Parliamentary Union</p>	Moderated discussion on key parliamentary actions to be included in the IPU resolution on UHC, country implementation and monitoring.	
Discussion 28 minutes		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		
Conclusions 2 minutes			
13.58-14.00 2 minutes	Moderator: Dr Zsuzsanna JAKAB, Deputy Director-General, WHO	Summary of key issues and way forward	