

14 August 2023

Dear Honorable Members of Parliaments,
Dear UNITE Members,

It is with great honor that we call on your leadership to secure health high on your country's political agenda. With the three UN high-level meetings (HLMs) on health at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) this September, on pandemic preparedness and response, universal health coverage (UHC), and tuberculosis, and the SDG Summit as well as all other global health processes and initiatives, 2023 represents a crucial political opportunity. As we rebuild after the COVID-19 crisis, we must seize it to emphasize the importance of strengthening cross-border cooperation for equitable access to health services and commodities, promoting the development of regional and global public goods in health and delivering health for all through health systems strengthening at national level, based on a primary health care approach.

We will not deliver health for all unless we achieve UHC, meaning that everyone, everywhere, has access to the health services they need without the risk of falling into poverty. Achieving UHC is not only a key target of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 3.8), but also an enabler of the 2030 Agenda as a whole. UHC connects health, finance, economics, and social sectors and requires a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach to make progress towards delivering health for all, including for women and girls who are usually more affected from inadequate access to health services.

At the HLMs, heads of state and government will convene to re-invigorate progress towards delivering health for all and endorse the three political declarations that outline how they will do so. In these declarations, what we really need is for world leaders to outline concrete steps for moving from commitment to action and political will to keep health high on their political agenda. After these meetings, we need leaders to be held accountable on their promises.

We, the Co-chairs and Political Advisors of the UHC2030 Steering Committee, and the President and Founder of UNITE Parliamentarians Network for Global Health, have come together to humbly request that you, Honorable Members of Parliament, guarantee that health is placed legally or constitutionally as a universal human right, champion the strengthening of health systems to achieve UHC in your national legislations, policies and budgets. We seek your leadership to ensure that UHC is well-integrated in your country's political agenda.

To support your action, the UHC Movement has developed a [UHC Action Agenda](#), which provides a blueprint for all countries on implementation areas that cannot be neglected. As outlined in the Action Agenda, we call on you to:

- Increase and stabilize levels of public spending on health to make health systems more resilient and equitable.
- Ensure that all national health policy frameworks address the health needs of all people, with special attention to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, throughout their life course, particularly women and girls.

- Implement policies, laws and regulations and budget for the necessary financing for a comprehensive essential health benefits package, financial protection, primary health care and integrated services to support UHC and health security.
- Apply robust planning and financing to retain, expand, and protect the health and care workforce.
- Institutionalize mechanisms for inclusive health governance and adopt policy frameworks that enable and resource social participation.

[UHC2030](#)'s mission is to accelerate sustainable progress towards universal health coverage, focusing on building equitable and resilient health systems that leave no one behind and provide the foundation to achieve global health security. We work with all stakeholders to mobilize political commitments and promote collective action to strengthen health systems. In this vein, a UHC2030's step-by-step [Parliamentarian Guide](#) to achieving universal health coverage was designed to support parliamentarians in their effort to translate global commitments to UHC into concrete country actions through six steps: Lead, Protect, Legislate, Advocate, Invest and Collaborate. We also track progress towards UHC and call for greater accountability at all levels.

It is high time for bold and actionable commitments to UHC focusing on making health systems more resilient and equitable. We reaffirm our commitment to work together to achieve the intertwined goals of UHC and health security.

Please accept, Honorable Members of Parliaments, the assurance of our highest consideration.

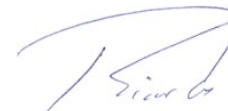
Yours sincerely,



Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron
Co-Chair of UHC2030 Steering
Committee



Dr. Justin Koonin
Co-Chair of UHC2030 Steering
Committee



Dr Ricardo Baptista Leite
President and Founder
UNITE

N.B. This joint letter is issued in consultation with the UHC Movement Political Advisory Panel:

Ms. Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President of the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly
Dr. Vytenis Povilas Andriukaitis, Special Envoy of UHC for the European Region, WHO
Prof. Ilona Kickbusch, Chair, International Advisory Board, Global Health Centre, Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies Geneva
Dr. Sania Nishtar, Member of the Senate of Pakistan
Ms. Joy Phumaphi, Executive secretary, the African Leaders Malaria Alliance
Ms. Emilia Saiz, Secretary General of the United Cities and Local Governments
Mr. Elhadj As Sy, Chair of the Board, Kofi Annan Foundation
Prof. Keizo Takemi, Member of the House of Councillors, Japan
H.E. Mrs. Fawzia bint Abdulla Zainal, Speaker of the Council of Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain