In September 2019, world leaders came together at the United Nations High-Level Meeting (UN HLM) “Universal Health Coverage: Moving Together to Build a Healthier World” and endorsed the most ambitious and comprehensive political declaration on health in history. Given the role of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) as an overarching umbrella for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3, good health and well-being for all, at all ages, the UN HLM on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) to be held in 2023 will be a significant milestone: at the midpoint of the SDGs, Heads of State and Government will undertake a comprehensive review on the implementation of the 2019 political declaration to identify gaps and solutions to accelerate progress towards the achievement of UHC by 2030.

This document provides an overview of key health-related commitments contained in the 2019 UHC Political Declaration and relevant resolutions adopted by the UN General Assemblies since 2015. By bringing together key health-related commitments in this way, this document provides a foundation to hold political leaders accountable for these commitments and to support other health advocates in working towards a more comprehensive and ambitious Political Declaration on health in 2023.

This document was developed by the Coalition of Partnerships for UHC and Global Health (The Coalition). Recognizing the need for greater collaboration and harmonization across health stakeholders and programmes, the Coalition unites health leaders and advocates around a common goal, the alignment of advocacy and accountability efforts towards the achievement of UHC and the advancement of the SDGs.

Let’s use these commitments to enhance accountability, support coordination among the various health initiatives for the preparation of future UN HLMs on health, and scale up efforts on all health-related SDG targets.

This document focuses on the following health commitments included in the 2019 UHC Political Declaration.
Political Declaration of the UN High-level Meeting on UHC
“Universal Health Coverage: Moving Together to Build a Healthier World”

The 2019 Political Declaration set key targets with time-bound commitments to accelerate action toward UHC by 2023 and 2030. In addition to specifying UHC- and health systems-related SDG targets, it also includes the health actions related to commitments made in other UNGA resolutions and SDGs outlined in the following pages.
Key Targets

24 Accelerate efforts towards the achievement of universal health coverage by 2030 to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all throughout the life course, and in this regard re-emphasize our resolve:

a. To progressively cover 1 billion additional people by 2023, with a view to covering all people by 2030;

b. To stop the rise and reverse the trend of catastrophic out-of-pocket health expenditure and eliminate impoverishment due to health-related expenses by 2030;

42 Expand quality essential health services, strengthen health systems and mobilize resources in health in developing countries, noting that, according to World Health Organization estimates, an additional 3.9 trillion dollars in total by 2030 could prevent 97 million premature deaths and add between 3.1 and 8.4 years of life expectancy in low- and middle-income countries;

60 Take immediate steps towards addressing the global shortfall of 18 million health workers and addressing the growing demand for health and social sectors which calls for the creation of 40 million health worker jobs by 2030.

Follow-up Actions

82 Request the Secretary-General to provide, in consultation with the World Health Organization and other relevant agencies, a progress report during the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly, and a report including recommendations on the implementation of the present declaration towards achieving universal health coverage during the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly, which will serve to inform the high-level meeting to be convened in 2023;

83 Decide to convene a high-level meeting on universal health coverage in 2023 in New York, aimed to undertake a comprehensive review on the implementation of the present declaration to identify gaps and solutions to accelerate progress towards the achievement of universal health coverage by 2030, the scope and modalities of which shall be decided no later than the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly, taking into consideration the outcomes of other existing health-related processes and the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.

Ensure political leadership beyond health
Commit to achieve UHC for healthy lives and well-being for all at all stages, as a social contract.

Leave no one behind
Pursue equity in access to quality health services with financial protection.

Legislate and regulate
Create a strong, enabling regulatory and legal environment responsive to people’s needs.

Uphold quality of care
Build quality health systems that people and communities trust.

Invest more, invest better
Sustain public financing and harmonize health investments.

Move together
Establish multi-stakeholder mechanisms for engaging the whole of society for a healthier world.

Gender equality
Emphasize gender equality, redress gender power dynamics and ensure women’s and girls’ rights as foundational principles for UHC.

Emergency preparedness
Promote strong and resilient health systems for enhancing health emergency preparedness and response.

Find out more
State of Commitment to Universal Health Coverage
UHC Political Declaration’s Key Targets, Commitments and Follow-up Actions
Milestones

79 Ensure Political Leadership Beyond Health: Set measurable national targets and strengthen national monitoring and evaluation platforms, to support regular tracking of the progress made for the achievement of universal health coverage by 2030;

67 Leave No One Behind: Strengthen health information systems and collect quality, timely and reliable data, to monitor progress and identify gaps in the universal and inclusive achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 3, and to ensure that the statistics used in the monitoring of progress can capture the actual progress made on the ground, for the achievement of universal health coverage;

57 Regulate and Legislate: Strengthen legislative and regulatory frameworks and promote policy coherence for the achievement of universal health coverage, including by enacting legislation and implementing policies that provide greater access to essential health services, products and vaccines, while also fostering awareness about the risks of substandard and falsified medical products, and assuring the quality and safety of services, products and practices of health workers as well as financial risk protection;

24 Uphold Quality of Care: Reemphasize our resolve to progressively cover one billion additional people by 2023 with quality essential health services and quality, safe, effective, affordable and essential medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and health technologies, with a view to cover all people by 2030;

43 Invest More, Invest Better: Optimize budgetary allocations on health, sufficiently broaden fiscal space, and prioritize health in public spending, while ensuring fiscal sustainability; and adequately increase public spending, as necessary, with a special emphasis on primary health care, where appropriate, in accordance with national contexts and priorities, while noting the World Health Organization’s recommended target of an additional 1 per cent of gross domestic product or more;

54 Move Together: Engage all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector and academia, as appropriate, through the establishment of participatory and transparent multistakeholder platforms and partnerships, to provide input to the development, implementation and evaluation of health- and social-related policies and review progress for the achievement of national objectives for universal health coverage.

Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015)

26 To promote physical and mental health and well-being, and to extend life expectancy for all, we must achieve universal health coverage and access to quality health care. No one must be left behind. We commit to accelerating the progress made to date in reducing newborn, child and maternal mortality by ending all such preventable deaths before 2030. We are committed to ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education. We will equally accelerate the pace of progress made in fighting malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, hepatitis, Ebola and other communicable diseases and epidemics, including by addressing growing anti-microbial resistance and the problem of unattended diseases affecting developing countries. We are committed to the prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases, including behavioural, developmental and neurological disorders, which constitute a major challenge for sustainable development.

SDG target 3.8: Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.

SDG target 3.B: Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and noncommunicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all.

SDG target 3.C: Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States.


77 Multi-stakeholder partnerships, such as the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (Gavi) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, have also achieved results in the field of health. We encourage a better alignment between such initiatives, and encourage them to improve their contribution to strengthening health systems. We recognize the key role of the World Health Organization as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work. We will enhance international coordination and enabling environments at all levels to strengthen national health systems and achieve universal health coverage. We commit to substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States. Parties to the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control will also strengthen implementation of the Convention in all countries, as appropriate, and will support mechanisms to raise awareness and mobilize resources. We welcome innovative approaches to catalyse additional domestic and international private and public resources for women and children, who have been disproportionately affected by many health issues, including the expected contribution of the Global Financing Facility in support of Every Woman, Every Child.

Find out more The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development
Strengthen efforts to address communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and hepatitis, as part of universal health coverage and to ensure that the fragile gains are sustained and expanded by advancing comprehensive approaches and integrated service delivery and ensuring that no one is left behind;

Prioritize HIV prevention and ensure by 2025 that 95 per cent of people at risk of HIV infection, within all epidemiologically relevant groups, age groups and geographic settings, have access to and use appropriate, prioritized, person-centred and effective combination prevention;

Achieve the 95–95–95 testing, treatment and viral suppression targets within all demographics and groups and geographic settings, including children and adolescents living with HIV, ensuring that, by 2025, at least 34 million people living with HIV have access to medicines, treatment and diagnostics;

Ensure by 2025 that 95 per cent of pregnant women have access to antenatal testing for HIV, syphilis, hepatitis B and other sexually-transmitted infections, 95 per cent of pregnant and breastfeeding women in high HIV burden settings have access to re-testing during late pregnancy and in the post-partum period, and that all pregnant and breastfeeding women living with HIV are receiving lifelong antiretroviral therapy, with 95 per cent achieving and sustaining viral suppression before delivery and during breastfeeding; (d) Test 95 per cent of HIV-exposed children by two months of age and after the cessation of breastfeeding, ensuring that all children diagnosed with HIV are provided treatment regimens and formulas optimized to their needs, and ensuring that 75 per cent of all children living with HIV have suppressed viral loads by 2023 and 86 per cent by 2025, in line with the 95–95–95 targets;

Ensure by 2025 that 95 per cent of women and girls of reproductive age have their HIV and sexual and reproductive health-care service needs met, including antenatal and maternal care, information and counselling;

Work towards the vision of zero stigma toward and discrimination against people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV, by ensuring that less than 10 per cent experience stigma and discrimination by 2025;

Invest in robust, resilient, equitable and publicly funded systems for health and social protection that provide 90 per cent of people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV with people-centred and context-specific integrated services for HIV and other communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases, sexual and reproductive health care and gender-based violence, mental health, palliative care, treatment of alcohol dependence and drug use, legal services and other services they need for their overall health and wellbeing by 2025; (e) Ensure the systematic engagement of HIV responses in pandemic response infrastructure and arrangements, leveraging national HIV strategic plans to guide key elements of pandemic preparedness planning and ensuring that 95 per cent of people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV are protected against pandemics, including COVID-19; (g) Ensure that by 2025 45 per cent of people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV and AIDS have access to social protection benefits in accordance with national legislation; (j) Promote full access to effective health emergency responses with full respect for human rights and ensuring that 95 per cent of people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV are protected against health emergencies, that 90 per cent of people in humanitarian settings have access to integrated HIV services and that 95 per cent of people in humanitarian settings at risk of HIV use appropriate, prioritized, people-centred and effective combination prevention options.

SDG target 3.3: By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.
Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Fight Against Tuberculosis (2018)

24 Provide diagnosis and treatment with the aim of successfully treating 40 million people with tuberculosis from 2018 to 2022, including 3.5 million children, and 1.5 million people with drug-resistant tuberculosis, including 115,000 children;

25 Prevent tuberculosis for those most at risk of falling ill through the rapid scaling up of access to testing for tuberculosis infection, according to the domestic situation, and the provision of preventive treatment, with a focus on high-burden countries, so that at least 30 million people, including 4 million children under 5 years of age, 20 million other household contacts of people affected by tuberculosis, and 6 million people living with HIV, receive preventive treatment by 2022;

46 Mobilize sufficient and sustainable financing for universal access to quality prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care of tuberculosis, from all sources, with the aim of increasing overall global investments for ending tuberculosis and reaching at least 13 billion United States dollars a year by 2022;

47 Mobilize sufficient and sustainable financing, with the aim of increasing overall global investments to 2 billion dollars, in order to close the estimated 1.3-billion-dollar gap in funding annually for tuberculosis research, ensuring that all countries contribute appropriately to research and development;

37 Promote and support an end to stigma and all forms of discrimination, including by removing discriminatory laws, policies and programmes against people with tuberculosis.

SDG target 3.3: By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.

Find out more [UNHLM on TB: Key Targets & Commitments](#)
[Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)

UNGA Resolution on Consolidating Gains and Accelerating Efforts to Control and Eliminate Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa, by 2030 (2020)

2 Calls for increased support for the implementation of international commitments and goals pertaining to the fight against malaria, including Goal 3, target 3.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the related targets outlined in the Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016–2030 of the World Health Organization;

SDG target 3.3: By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.

WHO’s Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016–2030
- Reduce malaria mortality rates globally compared with 2015 a) at least 40% by 2020, b) at least 75% by 2025 and c) at least 90% by 2030;
- Reduce malaria case incidence globally compared with 2015 a) at least 40% by 2020, b) at least 75% by 2025 and c) at least 90% by 2030;
- Eliminate malaria from countries in which malaria was transmitted in 2015 a) at least 10 countries by 2020, b) at least 20 countries by 2025, and c) at least 35 countries by 2030;
- Prevent re-establishment of malaria in all countries that are malaria-free.

Find out more [Consolidating gains and accelerating efforts to control and eliminate malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa, by 2030](#)
[Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)
[Global technical strategy for malaria 2016-2030, 2021 update](#)
28. Take multistectoral action to promote active and healthy lifestyles, including physical activity for the benefit of all people throughout their life course, and ensure a world free from malnutrition in all its forms, where all people are empowered to take responsibility for their own health, supported by public regulatory measures;

33. Further strengthen efforts to address non-communicable diseases, including cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes, as part of universal health coverage;

36. Implement measures to promote and improve mental health and well-being as an essential component of universal health coverage, including by scaling up comprehensive and integrated services for prevention, including suicide prevention, as well as treatment for people with mental disorders and other mental health conditions as well as neurological disorders, providing psychosocial support, promoting well-being, strengthening the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, addressing social determinants and other health needs, and fully respecting their human rights, noting that mental disorders and other mental health conditions as well as neurological disorders are an important cause of morbidity and contribute to the non-communicable disease burden worldwide;

44. Promote and implement policy, legislative and regulatory measures, including fiscal measures as appropriate, aiming at minimizing the impact of the main risk factors for non-communicable diseases, and promote healthy diets and lifestyles, consistent with national policies, noting that price and tax measures can be an effective means to reduce consumption and related health-care costs and represent a potential revenue stream for financing for development in many countries.

Key commitments leading to and in the Political Declaration of the Third High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (2018)

Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of NCDs (2011)

45. Promote, establish or support and strengthen, by 2013, as appropriate, multistectoral national policies and plans for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, taking into account, as appropriate, the 2008-2013 WHO Action Plan for the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, and the objectives contained therein, and take steps to implement such policies and plans.

Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of NCDs (2014)

30A (i) By 2015 consider setting national NCD targets for 2025.
30B (ii) By 2015 consider developing national multistectoral policies and plans to achieve the national targets by 2025.
30C By 2016 Strengthen health systems to address NCDs through people-centered primary health care and universal health coverage, building on guidance set out in the World Health Organization Global NCD Action Plan.

Political Declaration of the third High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of NCDs (2018)

17. Strengthen our commitment, as Heads of State and Government, to provide strategic leadership for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases by promoting greater policy coherence and coordination through whole-of-government and health-in-all-policies approaches and by engaging stakeholders in an appropriate, coordinated, comprehensive and integrated, bold, whole-of-society action and response;

18. Scale up the implementation of the commitments made in 2011 and 2014 for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) through ambitious multistectoral national responses and thereby contribute to the overall implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including by integrating, across the life course, action on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and the promotion of mental health and well-being;

35. Strengthen health systems and reorient them towards the achievement of universal health coverage and improvement of health outcomes, and high-quality, integrated and people-centered primary and specialized health services for the prevention, screening and control of non-communicable diseases and related mental health disorders and other mental health conditions throughout the life cycle;

36. Promote access to affordable diagnostics, screening, treatment and care, as well as vaccines that lower the risk of cancer, as part of the comprehensive approach to its prevention and control, including cervical and breast cancers.

SDG target 3.4: By 2030, reduce by one-third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.

Find out more

- Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of NCDs
- NCD Global Monitoring Framework
- Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of NCDs
Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health (2015)

SDG target 3.1: By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.

SDG target 3.2: By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births.

SDG target 3.4: By 2030, reduce by one-third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.

SDG target 3.7: By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.

UN Secretary General’s Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health (2016-2030) in line with SDG targets: Survive, Thrive, Transform.

Commission on the Status of Women Sixty-fifth session (2021): Women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.
In accordance with international humanitarian law, respect and protect, in situations of armed conflict, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, and hospitals and other medical facilities, which must not be unlawfully attacked, and ensure that the wounded and sick receive, to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, the medical care and attention required;

Enhance cooperation at the national, regional and global levels to address antimicrobial resistance, using an integrated and systems-based one-health approach, including through health systems strengthening, capacity-building, including for research and regulatory capacity, and technical support; and ensure equitable access to affordable, safe, effective and quality existing and new antimicrobial medicines, vaccines and diagnostics as well as effective stewardship, as antimicrobial resistance poses a challenge to achieving universal health coverage, noting the work of the ad hoc inter-agency coordination group on antimicrobial resistance and its recommendations as contained in the report of the Secretary-General on antimicrobial resistance.

Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Antimicrobial Resistance

Commit to work at national, regional and global levels:

a. To develop, in line with World Health Assembly resolution 68.7 of 26 May 2015, multisectoral national action plans, programmes and policy initiatives, in line with a One Health approach and the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance, including its five overarching strategic objectives, with a view to implementing national measures for strengthening appropriate antibiotic use in humans and animals. To support the implementation of such plans, national and international collaboration is needed to assess resource needs and to provide sustained technical and financial investment in shared research, laboratories and regulatory capacities, as well as professional education and training, with a view to safeguarding human health, animal health and welfare and the environment;

b. To mobilize adequate, predictable and sustained funding and human and financial resources and investment through national, bilateral and multilateral channels to support the development and implementation of national action plans, research and development on existing and new antimicrobial medicines, diagnostics and vaccines, and other technologies, and strengthening of related infrastructure, including through engagement with multilateral development banks and traditional and voluntary innovative financing and investment mechanisms, based on priorities and local needs set by governments and on ensuring public return on investment.

SDG target 3.D: Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks.

UNGA Resolution on Global Health and Foreign Policy: Pandemic Preparedness (2021)

• Forthcoming

Find out more

Political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on antimicrobial resistance

Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Annexes

**Sustainable Development Goals**

- Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)
- Addis Ababa Action Agenda (A/RES/69/313)
- Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages (summary prepared by UN DESA)

**Health Systems Strengthening for UHC**

- Political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage (A/RES/74/2)
- Global health and foreign policy: universal health coverage (A/RES/67/81)
- Global health and foreign policy: addressing the health of the most vulnerable for an inclusive society (A/RES/72/139)
- UHC Political Declaration’s Key Targets, Commitments and Follow-up Actions (summary prepared by UHC2030)
- State of UHC Commitment (Commitment progress reviewed by UHC2030)

**HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria**

- Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Ending Inequalities and Getting on Track to End AIDS by 2030 (summary prepared by UNAIDS)
- Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Ending Inequalities and Getting on Track to End AIDS by 2030 (A/RES/75/284)
- UNHLM on TB Key Targets and Commitments (summary prepared by Stop TB Partnership)
- Political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the fight against tuberculosis (A/RES/73/3)
- Consolidating gains and accelerating efforts to control and eliminate malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa, by 2030 (A/RES/74/305)
- Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016–2030 (WHO)

**Non-Communicable Diseases/Mental Health**

- Outcome document of the second high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (A/RES/68/300)
- Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (A/RES/73/2)
- Follow-up to the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (WHA66.10)

**Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health**

- Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health (2016–2030)
- Women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls

**Health Security/Anti-microbial Resistance**

- Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Antimicrobial Resistance (A/RES/71/3)
- Call to Action on Antimicrobial Resistance 2021 (a voluntary commitment signed by 113 countries)
Find out more about the Coalition of Partnerships for UHC and Global Health

www.uhc2030.org/what-we-do/voices/advocacy/
the-coalition-of-partnerships-for-uhc-and-global-health/