



**Constituency Statement to the 154th Session
of WHO Executive Board
Agenda Item 6. Universal health coverage**

Established in 1949, IPSF is the leading international advocacy organisation for pharmacy and pharmaceutical science students and recent graduates that promotes improved public health through the provision of information, education, networking and a range of publications and professional activities.

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**Statement of
the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation, the International
College of Surgeons, the International Pediatric Association, the Alliance for
Health Promotion, the International Pharmaceutical Federation, the World
Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists, the International Society for
Quality in Health Care, the International Society of Paediatric Oncology, and
the NCD Alliance**

154th Session of the WHO Executive Board
Agenda item 6. Universal Health Coverage

Honourable Chair, distinguished delegates,

The continual deprivation of essential health services and the stagnation observed in the UHC Service Coverage Index amid the pandemic, particularly in low and middle-income countries, necessitates immediate attention. We note with concern that a quarter of the world's population currently faces substantial financial hardships as a result of out-of-pocket health spending, with far-reaching consequences for the most vulnerable groups. Recalling UHC as both a fundamental right and a cornerstone for a resilient and equitable global health setting, we strongly advocate for a strategic shift towards a primary healthcare approach and a patient-centred care that recognises individual needs and cultural diversity to foster responsiveness and inclusivity in healthcare delivery.

Additionally, access to lifesaving medicines and care for children is inadequate and not covered by national healthcare insurance. Therefore, we call upon all Member States to prioritise UHC in national agendas and provide access to medicines and care for every child, every age, everywhere. This necessitates a dual focus on strategic resource allocation and the fortification of the health workforce. Acknowledging the pivotal role of healthcare



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professionals and essential medicines, we also emphasise the need for increased public financing for health, particularly in low and middle-income countries, with the overarching goal of diminishing reliance on out-of-pocket spending. This involves embedding primary health care policies into national health planning that safeguards the resourcing and effectiveness of a resilient health workforce.

The constituency further urges Member States and the WHO to invest in and strengthen capacity-building initiatives, recognising them as crucial components in advancing the collective journey towards achieving a comprehensive and equitable UHC. Moreover, we recognise the role of youth and communities through active engagement in decision-making processes, contributing to a more participatory and responsive healthcare system.

Lastly, we highlight the significance of equity and inclusivity in health policies and governance and continuously advocate for social participation, ensuring active engagement of communities and civil society to leave no one behind and reach the furthest behind first.

Thank you.

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International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation

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