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# Second International Conference on Primary Health Care: Towards Universal Health Coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals Consultation on the Declaration

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In 2018, 40 years after the Declaration of Alma-Ata, Member States, people, civil society and international development partners will commit to strengthening primary health care to achieve universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals. Our collective commitment and action are required in order to achieve this goal. In this inclusive spirit, we hope you will share your comments on the new Declaration on primary health care.

Following this period of public consultation, the Declaration will be reviewed by the International Advisory Group on Primary Health Care for Universal Health Coverage on April 26-27. An updated draft Declaration will then undergo an informal consultation process with Member States in Geneva, Switzerland starting in May.

The public call for comments will be open until 12h midnight CEST on **April 23, 2018**. Thank you in advance for your input.

Together, we can achieve Health for All.

## • [Draft Declaration](#)

Your contact details

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<b>These comments represent input from a Member State</b>
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Please input your comments for each section of the document

<b>Preamble</b>
Primary health care is essential for everyone. The fact is it has remained unattainable for majority of the world's population. It's true for the developing world but also for the developed world where not every one has access to good quality primary care due to inadequate health coverage or their inability to make out of pocket payments for essential primary health care services.

<b>I. Primary health care is essential achieving Universal Health Coverage and Sustainable Development Goals:</b>
Sustainable development is possible in a healthy world. Due to lack of primary health care access, Universal Health Coverage remains a distant dream.
Every child and adult needs access to primary health care providers. Services such as health education, sanitation, immunization, family planning services, obstetric and reproductive/sexual health services, nutrition and growth monitoring, cancer screenings, mental health counselling etc must be available to every one.
A world where extreme poverty and destruction of available resources through wars and violence is so prevalent a multi-sector approach with peace building efforts, education and women's empowerment may help in creating conducive conditions for overall future progress and UHC.

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**II. Primary health care is essential to improve health:**

Primary health care is essential to improve the health care system as it reduces the disease burden. Making way for optimal resource utilization to create a health world.

**III. Primary health care is essential to the success of and sustainability of health systems:**

Success and sustainability of health systems can occur when the number of patients receiving care is manageable. However, if the disease burden is too high and ability of people to pay for services due to poverty is low; sustainability and success of local health systems is difficult.

**Governments:**

Governments that represent the people they govern 'without corruption' and 'with empathy' can develop and implement policies that help in attainment of universal health care.

Unfortunately governments around the world are more about implementing political vested interests ideology where lobbyist pay for policies they want for their businesses to succeed.

Nevertheless, advocates for universal health care, peace loving humanitarian agencies should continue to diplomatically engage with governments to seek their commitment for universal health coverage.

**People, including civil society:**

People and civil societies have the social media as a powerful tool to advocate for UHC. Educate their elected representatives about their primary and universal health care needs and continuously remind them of the gaps in the primary health care systems that need to be addressed with relevant programs and policies.

**The international community, including UN organizations, funding agencies and donors:**

The international agencies, including UN organizations, and funding agencies too must maintain transparency in their humanitarian work. They must improve their hiring process to include talented and empathetic individuals who are willing to serve with dedication.

**If you have any general comments on the Declaration, please provide them below:**

I agree with the declaration, however want to stress the need to act on the declaration. Declarations are only as effective as how well they get implemented. Without implementation declarations remain written statements stored away in files and folders.

**We are interested in hearing how you will be part of the movement. Consider sharing your personal commitment to primary health care and universal health coverage here. (Please note these comments will not be used to edit the draft declaration.)**

I am passionate about public health and global health development. I have served as a doctor in the developing world and as a public health program manager in United States. I can contribute effectively towards primary health care development if I am given an opportunity to lead and serve in global health. I will continue to be directly involved in this movement.

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