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Agenda item 131

Global health and foreign policy

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 August 2021

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/75/L.120)]

75/315. Scope, modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage

The General Assembly,

Recalling the outcome of the first high-level meeting on universal health coverage on 23 September 2019, and reaffirming its political declaration, entitled “Universal health coverage: moving together to build a healthier world”,¹ in which it reiterated, inter alia, the importance of scaling up the global effort to leave no one behind and to build a healthier world for all, as well as accelerating efforts towards the achievement of universal health coverage by 2030 to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all throughout the life course,

Recalling also that it was decided in the political declaration 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 2019 political declaration to identify gaps and solutions to accelerate progress towards the achievement of universal health coverage by 2030,

Recognizing that through the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development² and its Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015, Heads of State and Government made a bold commitment to achieve universal health coverage by 2030, 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,

Recognizing also that, through the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,³ Heads of State

¹ Adopted by the General Assembly in resolution [74/2](#) on 10 October 2019.

² Resolution [70/1](#).

³ Resolution [69/313](#), annex.



and Government supported research and development of vaccines and medicines, as well as preventive measures and treatments for communicable and non-communicable diseases, in particular those that disproportionately impact developing countries,

Taking note of the 2020 report of the Secretary-General on the progress achieved in the implementation of the political declaration, entitled “An inclusive approach to strengthening health systems in the context of universal health coverage”,⁴

Reiterating the commitment to the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda,

Recognizing that health is a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of all three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – of sustainable development and that, despite progress made, challenges in global health, including major inequities and vulnerabilities within and among countries, regions and populations, still remain and demand persistent attention,

Expressing deep concern that, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, at least half of the world’s population lacked access to essential health services and almost 100 million people each year were pushed into poverty due to out-of-pocket health expenses, and that the COVID-19 pandemic has created additional setbacks and exposed vulnerabilities in health systems,

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic has a disproportionately heavy impact on the poor and the most vulnerable with repercussions on health and development gains, thus hampering the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and universal health coverage,

1. *Decides* that the one-day high-level meeting on universal health coverage to be convened by the President of the General Assembly shall be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on the third day of the general debate of the Assembly at its seventy-eighth session, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and consist of an opening segment, a plenary segment for general discussion, two multi-stakeholder panels and a brief closing segment;

2. *Also decides* that:

(a) The opening segment, to be held from 10 to 10.30 a.m., will feature statements by the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session, the Secretary-General, the Director-General of the World Health Organization, the President of the World Bank Group, as well as an eminent high-level champion of universal health coverage, selected, in consultation with Member States, by the President of the General Assembly, giving due consideration to gender balance;

(b) The plenary segment, to be held from 10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., will comprise statements by Member States and observers of the General Assembly; a list of speakers will be established in accordance with established practices of the Assembly, and the time limits for these statements will be three minutes for individual delegations and five minutes for statements made on behalf of a group of States;

(c) The closing segment, to be held from 5.30 to 6 p.m., will comprise summaries of the multi-stakeholder panels and concluding remarks by the President of the General Assembly;

3. *Further decides* that the organizational arrangements for the two multi-stakeholder panels will be as follows:

⁴ [A/75/577](#), issued on 5 November 2020, pursuant to paragraph 82 of the political declaration.

(a) Two multi-stakeholder panels will be held in parallel to the plenary segment, one from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the other from 3 to 5 p.m.;

(b) Each of the two multi-stakeholder panels will be co-chaired by two representatives, one from a developed country and one from a developing country, to be appointed by the President of the General Assembly from among the Heads of State or Government attending the high-level meeting, in consultation with Member States, taking into account gender balance, level of development and geographical representation;

(c) The themes of the multi-stakeholder panels will take into consideration the direction and outcomes of other preceding health processes and initiatives, as well as the interactive multi-stakeholder hearing, with a view to ensuring the most effective and efficient outcomes and potential deliverables and to sharing experiences and lessons learned to address remaining implementation gaps;

(d) The President of the General Assembly may invite parliamentarians, local governments, the heads or senior representatives of relevant United Nations entities, including the World Health Organization and the World Bank, development partners, civil society, the private sector, academia, medical associations, indigenous leadership, representative organizations of persons with disabilities and community organizations to serve as speakers on the panels, taking into account gender balance, level of development, geographical representation and the representation of youth and older persons;

4. *Decides* that the high-level meeting shall approve a concise and action-oriented political declaration, agreed in advance by consensus through intergovernmental negotiations, to be submitted by the President of the General Assembly for adoption by the Assembly;

5. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, with the support of the World Health Organization and other relevant partners, to organize and preside over an interactive multi-stakeholder hearing, before the end of June 2023, with the active participation of appropriate senior-level representatives of Member States, observers of the General Assembly, parliamentarians, representatives of local governments, relevant United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, invited civil society organizations, philanthropic foundations, academia, medical associations, the private sector and broader communities, ensuring the participation and voices of women, children, youth and indigenous leadership, as part of the preparatory process for the high-level meeting, and also requests the President to prepare a summary of the hearing prior to the high-level meeting;

6. *Encourages* all Member States to participate in the high-level meeting, including the multi-stakeholder panels, at the highest possible level, preferably at the level of Heads of State and Government, and invites all observers of the General Assembly to be represented at the highest possible level;

7. *Invites* the United Nations system, including funds, programmes and specialized agencies, including the World Health Organization, regional commissions and relevant envoys of the Secretary-General, to participate in the high-level meeting, as appropriate, and urges them to consider relevant initiatives, such as the International Health Partnership for UHC2030, in support of the preparatory process and the high-level meeting, particularly with regard to sharing evidence and good practices, challenges and lessons learned;

8. *Invites* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to contribute to the high-level meeting;

9. *Invites* non-governmental organizations with relevant expertise that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to register with the Secretariat to attend the high-level meeting and participate in the multi-stakeholder panels and the interactive multi-stakeholder hearing;

10. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of representatives of other relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector who may participate in the high-level meeting, including its panel discussions, taking into account the principles of transparency and equitable geographical representation, with due regard for gender parity, to submit the proposed list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis⁵ and to bring the list to the attention of the Assembly for a final decision by the Assembly on participation in the high-level meeting;

11. *Invites* members of civil society, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia, development partners and other relevant initiatives to make a fundamental contribution to the process in terms of raising awareness of the importance of universal health coverage and its contribution towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, among others;

12. *Encourages* Member States to consider including in their national delegations ministers from all relevant ministries, as appropriate, as well as representatives such as parliamentarians, mayors and governors, representatives of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, indigenous leadership, community organizations and faith-based organizations, academia, philanthropic foundations, the private sector and universal health coverage networks, with due regard to gender balance;

13. *Decides* that the proceedings of the high-level meeting and the multi-stakeholder hearing shall be webcast, and encourages the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General and the Director-General of the World Health Organization to give the highest visibility to the high-level meeting, through all relevant media platforms and information and communications technologies;

14. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session to finalize the organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting, in close consultation with Member States, including the overall theme of the high-level meeting and the themes of the multi-stakeholder panels in line with paragraph 3 (c) of the present resolution.

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⁵ The list will include proposed as well as final names. The general basis of any objections, if requested by one or more States Members of the United Nations or States members of the specialized agencies, will be made known to the Office of the President of the General Assembly and the requester.