

**71<sup>st</sup> WHA Technical briefing:**  
**"The role of Parliamentarians in achieving universal health coverage and global health security as two sides of the same coin"**

*Friday, 25 May 2018  
12:30-14:15, Salle XII (tbc)*

Today at least 400 million people globally have no access to essential health services, and 40 per cent of the world's population lack social protection.

Achieving universal health coverage (UHC), including for the most marginalized and vulnerable groups of our societies, such as women, children, adolescents and the elderly, is a crucial objective for each and every country. UHC enables all people to receive the health services they need throughout their lives without suffering financial hardship.

UHC also includes health promotion and prevention and requires a broad public health approach to strengthening health systems. As the best defence to prevent disease outbreaks from becoming epidemics, and to respond to health emergencies, strong health systems are the best way to safeguard against health crises. In this way, UHC and global health security are two sides of the same coin.

UHC and global health security are key pillars to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but ultimately they are a political choice. It is the responsibility of every country to pursue them, and parliamentarians have a key role to play in moving national health agendas forward.

This technical briefing will provide an opportunity to hear the voice of parliamentarians and share experiences on concrete actions in terms of legislation, accountability, budget allocation and advocacy.

The briefing will also serve the purpose of sharing with parliamentarians the 13<sup>th</sup> WHO Global Programme of Work (2019-2023). The technical briefing is organized jointly by the WHO and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

## **Programme**

- 1. Introduction on the objectives of the technical briefing, and presentation of keynote speakers**  
*(5 minutes)*
- 2. Introductory remarks by the WHO Director-General and the IPU Secretary General** *(14 minutes)*
- 3. Introduction of panellists** *(5 minutes)*
- 4. Panel** *(42 minutes)*
- 5. Q&A** *(35 minutes)*
- 6. Wrap-up and final remarks** *(4 minutes)*

## **Panel**

### **Moderator:**

Ms. Michèle Boccoz, WHO Assistant Director-General for External Relations

### **Introductory remarks**

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General

Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

### **Panellists**

Ms. Petra Bayr, Member of Parliament of Austria, Vice-Chair of the IPU Advisory Group on Health

Dr Habibe Millat, Member of Parliament of Bangladesh, Chair of the IPU Advisory Group on Health

Mr. Oscar Rwegasira Mukasa, Member of Parliament of Tanzania

Ms. Jeanne d'Arc Gakuba, Vice-President of the Senate of Rwanda  
Dr Roberto Morales Ojeda, Vice President of Cuba, Former Minister of Health (tbc)  
Ms. Michelle Bachelet, Former President of Chile, Chair of PMNCH (tbc)

## Annotated agenda

INTRODUCTION (5 minutes)
<p><b>Moderator introduces the objectives of the technical briefing (4 minutes)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To inform about the core functions of parliament and how they relate to the achievement of UHC and health security.</li><li>2. To explore concrete ways in which parliamentarians can support the achievement of UHC and global health security for all, including the most vulnerable and marginalized groups and across the life course.</li><li>3. To discuss actions in which parliaments can help create an enabling environment for UHC and health security interventions in terms of legislation, advocacy, accountability and budget allocation.</li></ol> <p><b>Introduction of key note speakers: Dr A.G. Tedros and Mr. M. Chungong (1 minute)</b></p>
INTRODUCTORY REMARKS (14 minutes)
<p><b>Introductory remarks by the WHO Director-General (7 minutes)</b> <i>UHC and global health security as two sides of the same coin. The role of parliamentarians in achieving this goal and in promoting health as a right for all. How the IPU/WHO can work together to mobilize political support towards the achievement of the triple billion goal for UHC, global health security and health promotion.</i></p> <p><b>Introductory remarks by the IPU Secretary General (7 minutes)</b> <i>The role of parliaments in the area of health policies and how WHO and the IPU worked together so far to foster their contribution to global health. Success stories and way forward in the collaboration.</i></p>
INTRODUCTION OF PANELLISTS (5 minutes)
<p><b>Moderator introduces the six panellists reading short bio information (5 minutes)</b></p>
PANEL (42 minutes)
<p><b>Ms. Petra Bayr, Member of Parliament of Austria, Vice-Chair of the IPU Advisory Group on Health (7 minutes)</b> <i>Reaching UHC and health security for all: How can parliamentarians reach marginalized and vulnerable groups? The role of the Advisory Group.</i></p> <p><b>Dr Habibe Millat, Member of Parliament of Bangladesh, Chair of the IPU Advisory Group on Health (7 minutes)</b> <i>The experience of Bangladesh toward the achievement of universal health coverage. The role of Parliament in creating an enabling environment for the achievement of UHC. Concrete actions to create a strong legal framework at national level. Challenges and successes.</i></p> <p><b>Dr Roberto Morales Ojeda, Vice President of Cuba, Former Minister of Health (tbc) (7 minutes)</b> <i>The experience of Cuba in the strengthening of health systems toward the achievement of universal health coverage, recognizing health at the centre of public policies for sustainable development. Concrete actions taken to provide adequate budget allocation in the implementation of universal health coverage.</i></p>

**Mr. Oscar Rwegasira Mukasa, Member of Parliament of Tanzania (7 minutes)**

*Accountability mechanisms and the role of parliamentarians in strengthening global health security and achieving UHC, drawing on examples of good practices from Tanzania.*

**Ms. Jeanne d'Arc Gakuba, Vice-President of the Senate of Rwanda (7 minutes)**

*Women, children, adolescents, the elderly, are particularly vulnerable and disproportionately affected, especially in fragile and conflict-affected countries. This provides a natural overlap between emergencies, UHC, and healthier populations. The role of Parliament in health promotion and disease prevention with a particular focus on the most vulnerable groups. The experience of Rwanda on UHC and SRHR.*

**Ms. Michelle Bachelet, Former President of Chile, Chair of PMNCH (tbc) (7 minutes)**

*Why women, children and adolescents are central to the achievement of UHC and global health security*

**Q&A (35 minutes)**

**Moderator facilitates the contributions from the floor**

**WRAP-UP AND FINAL REMARKS (4 minutes)**

**Moderator closes the technical briefing wrapping up lessons learnt and way forward**