



## **PLENARY SESSION 0**

**ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE**

## | BACKGROUND

- Health is a fundamental human right, which should be enjoyed by all people. Furthermore, investments in health aimed at achieving universal health coverage (UHC) could contribute to accumulation of human capital that is indispensable for sustainable development.
- In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 70/1, “Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” which reaffirmed that achieving UHC would ensure healthy lives and well-being for all people. However, nearly half of the earth’s population is still unable to access basic healthcare services, and 100 million people fall into poverty each year due to heavy burden of medical expenses. According to UHC Global Monitoring Report 2019 (GMR 2019), the world needs to double health coverage until 2030 in order to achieve the SDGs on UHC. Otherwise, GMR 2019 forecasts that, if current trends continue, up to 5 billion people will still be unable to access health care in 2030. Therefore, effort to achieve the 2030 Agenda should be accelerated more than ever.
- Back in 2017, the Government of Japan, World Bank, WHO, UNICEF, UHC2030, and JICA jointly held the UHC Forum 2017 and adopted the Tokyo Declaration on UHC to build up the momentum towards the achievement of UHC. The declaration aimed to highlight the importance of enhancing political momentum in international fora, the necessity of country-led coordination among stakeholders regarding assistance towards achieving UHC, and the potential of innovation for UHC. Subsequently, UHC flagship event was held on the margins of the IMF-World Bank Spring Meeting in 2018. In the event, the importance of the roles played by finance ministers in structuring a sustainable health financing system was highlighted, as well as the necessity of collaboration between finance and health authorities in due course. Then, in 2019, the G20 under Japanese Presidency discussed importance of strengthening health financing to move towards UHC. The G20 Finance Minister successfully put together “the G20 Shared Understanding on the Importance of UHC Financing in Developing Countries” which summarizes key considerations that finance authorities should take into account in structuring a health financing system for UHC, and both the G20 finance and health ministers affirmed their commitment to the shared understanding document in their joint session held on the margins of G20 Osaka Summit.
- Against this backdrop, the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on UHC was held in September 2019 where the political declaration with a dedicated focus on UHC was adopted for the first time. The political declaration affirmed that UHC contributes not only to health and well-being, but also to broader development issues including poverty reduction, economic growth, and social inequalities. In addition, the political declaration suggested a number of necessary actions to achieve UHC, such as: (i) investing in innovations related to health technologies, service delivery and health information; (ii) developing a PHC-based health system to meet the needs of people; (iii) strengthening health financing through the whole-of-government coordination between the health sector and others including the finance sector, (iv) fostering strategic leadership at the highest political level for inter-sectoral interventions; (v) building capacity of local authorities while enhancing the engagement of communities and stakeholders.
- In 2020, the second UHC Forum will be jointly held with PMAC 2020. This event would be an ideal opportunity to call for concrete actions, building upon strong global political commitments in the past. At the outset, the Plenary 0 in PMAC2020/UHC Forum2020 is to set the scene of efforts and challenges in promoting UHC among political leaders and provides the platform to articulate following three sub-themes; Sub-theme 1: Implementation challenges and innovation solutions for UHC 2030, Sub-theme 2: Sustainable financing for expanding and deepening UHC and Sub-theme 3: Adapting to the changing global landscape: fostering UHC-based solidarity to drive towards SDGs

## | OBJECTIVES

1. Sharing the experiences to foster the political momentum of UHC at 5 years after the launching of SDGs and discussing the challenges to build sustainable health system for UHC.
2. Discussing the next step from political commitment to actual actions to achieve UHC by 2030 from the viewpoints of various stakeholders. (Particularly about (i) Innovation, (ii) PHC-oriented health system, (iii) Health financing)





Moderator

**Ashley McKimm**

*Director of Partnership Development*

British Medical Journal

United Kingdom



Moderator

## Gaku HASHIMOTO

*State Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare*

Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare  
Japan

Mr. HASHIMOTO Gaku is a member of the House of Representatives, Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), and State Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare appointed in September 2019. After completing Master's Program at Keio University, he first joined the Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc.. First elected to the House of Representatives in 2005, now he is in his fourth term. He served as Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Health and Labour and Welfare and State Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare.

In the House, he served as Director of Committee on Internal Affairs and Communications, Director of Committee on Foreign Affairs and Director of Committee on Health, Labour and Welfare.

In the LDP, he served positions including Vice- Chairperson, Committee on Organizations Involved with Health and Welfare, Deputy Director, Health, Labour and Welfare Division, Deputy Director, Internal Affairs and Communications Division, Vice-Chairperson, Committee on Organizations Involved with Health and Welfare, Chairperson, Committee on Organizations Involved with Information and Communications, Deputy Chairperson, Diet Affairs Committee, Acting Director, Internal Affairs and Communications Division, Director, Foreign Affairs Division and Director, Health, Labour and Welfare Division.



Keynote Speaker

## Anutin Charnvirakul

*The Deputy Prime Minister and Public Health Minister*

Ministry of Public Health

Thailand



Panelist

## Anders Nordstrom

*Ambassador of global health*

Swedish MFA

Sweden

Dr Anders Nordström is the Swedish Ambassador for Global Health at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Stockholm. Medical doctor from the Karolinska Institute.

He worked for WHO as ADG for General Management, Health Systems and Services and as Acting Director-General and as the Head of the WHO Country Office in Sierra Leone.

He has served as Director-General for the Swedish International Agency for Development Cooperation (Sida). As the Interim Executive Director, he established the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria as a legal entity.

He has served as board member of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, GAVI, UNAIDS and PMNCH.



Panelist

## Ariel Pablos-Mendez

*Professor of Medicine*

Columbia University, New York  
United States of America





Panelist

**Daniel Dulitzky**

*Regional Director*

World Bank

United States of America



Panelist

## Evalin K. Karijo

*Director - Y-ACT, Youth in Action*

Amref Health Africa  
Kenya

Ms. Evalin Karijo serves as the Alternate Representative of the Global South to the UHC2030 Steering Committee, as part of the Advisory Group of the Civil Society Engagement Mechanism for the UHC2030 Partnership. Ms. Karijo is a young, dynamic leader and the Project Director of Y-ACT, Youth in Action, at Amref Health Africa. Y-ACT is a youth led initiative which promotes Meaningful Youth Engagement in policy and decision-making processes in Kenya, with a focus on Gender Equality and Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights (SRHR).

She served as the Chairperson of the Africa Health Agenda International Conference Youth Pre-conference 2019. During her tenure, over 400 youth from 23 countries launched the Youth4UHC movement, the first virtual Pan-African movement of youth aimed at advancing meaningful youth engagement in Universal Health Coverage (UHC) policy design and implementation in the global south.

Ms. Karijo has over the past five years led multifaceted health projects focusing on women, adolescents and youth, supported by the European Union, Comic Relief, the German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation (GIZ), UNFPA and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

She holds a Masters Degree in International Public Health from the University of Liverpool-UK and a Global Executive MBA (Health Leadership & Management) from USIU-Africa. She has received various recognitions including Management Africa for her leadership role in the development sector.



Panelist

## Khuat Thi Hai Oanh

*Executive Director*

Asia Pacific Council of AIDS Service Organizations  
Viet Nam



Panelist

## Naoko Yamamoto

*Assistant Director-General, UHC/Healthier Populations*

World Health Organization  
Switzerland

Dr Naoko Yamamoto  
Assistant Director-General  
Universal Health Coverage/ Healthier Populations  
World Health Organization

Dr Naoko Yamamoto was most recently WHO's Assistant Director-General for Universal Health Coverage and Health Systems. Dr Yamamoto brings nearly 30 years of experience working on health in Japan and served as Senior Assistant Minister for Global Health in Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. In this capacity, she was heavily involved in Japan's global health leadership, including hosting and organizing the International Conference on Universal Health Coverage in 2015 and supporting the compilation of the G7 Ise-Shima Vision for Global Health and Kobe Communique of the G7 Health Ministers' Meeting in 2016, both of which highlighted the importance of promoting universal health coverage.

Prior to this role, she served in numerous health-related positions within the government of Japan, including as Director General of the Hokkaido Regional Bureau of Health and Welfare, Director of the Health and Medical Division at the Ministry of Defense, and Counsellor to the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations. She holds a medical degree, a PhD in epidemiology and a Masters in Public Health.



Panelist

**Takashi Miyachi**

*Representative*

Zambia Bridge Project

Japan

