



PLENARY SESSION 1

IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES AND INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR UHC 2030

| BACKGROUND

Underlying the achievement of most SDG3 targets is universal access to and uptake of quality, affordable health services (SDG target 3.8), the large majority delivered close to where people live and work (i.e. primary care).

WHO estimates that around half of the world's population lack access to essential health services worldwide. Even when essential services are accessible, they are often fragmented, of poor quality and safety, and do not always address the upstream determinants of health and equity in health.

At the same time, the burden of noncommunicable diseases, accidents and mental health problems is growing. Ageing populations are causing people to live longer, but often with multiple diseases and conditions that require complex care over time. With the growth of social media and digital communication, healthcare users and their families are much more informed (or mis-informed) and are demanding more say in how health services take care of them. Significant rise in medical consumerism, malpractice litigation, and lack of trust in vaccination campaigns are observed. In more fragile contexts, the lack of confidence in health services and has hampered efforts to control communicable disease threats. This shows that communities are the anchor of nations' resilience-building efforts. In this context, increased accountability (including social accountability to local communities) and broader stakeholder participation is needed.

The key to dealing with today's public health challenges and changing landscape is not to change strategic direction – primary health care remains the cornerstone of a sustainable health system and is the foundation for essential part of achieving universal health coverage– but to transform the way health and social services are organized, funded and delivered. For health care and coverage to be truly universal, it calls a shift from health systems designed around diseases and health institutions towards systems designed for people, with people. This is required to meet the evolving needs of the population, ensure population trust in services and subsequently their effective use, and to curb inefficiencies related to duplication and waste. In the wider context of Sustainable Development Goals, health workers are also expected to demonstrate their social responsibility: protecting the general public's well-being and meeting social expectations, while also aiming to reduce the impact on the environment of their activities.

| OBJECTIVES

Political commitment to achieving UHC is strongly affirmed at the global level as the world convened in Astana in 2018 to reiterate their commitment to PHC; and the 2019 United Nations General Assembly United Nations prepares to hold a High-Level Meeting on “Universal Health Coverage: Moving Together to Build a Healthier World”. In this context, this session aims at building on the global commitments and experiences learned from pioneering countries to go one step further and identify innovative solutions to make significant progress in implementation for local communities, ensuring no one is left behind. This session adopts whole-of-system approach to achieving UHC and considers both the supply and demand side interventions. It highlights the political economy of reforms through countries' stories to transform its health system and calls on to concrete innovative actions to achieve demonstrable results in short time frame (panel session).



Moderator

Naoko Yamamoto

Assistant Director-General, UHC/Healthier Populations

World Health Organization
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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.



Keynote Speaker

Beverly Ho

Special Assistant to the Secretary of Health for Universal Health Coverage

Department of Health
Philippines

Beverly “Bev” Lorraine Ho is the Special Assistant to the Secretary of Health for Universal Health Coverage at the Department of Health - Philippines. Immediately prior to this full-time designation, she was Chief of Research Division of the Health Policy Development and Planning Bureau where she worked to provide the evidence needed to support health system reform by designing innovative research grants and building institutional capacity for policy research. These efforts have significantly contributed to the passage of key legislation on sugar-sweetened beverage tax, tobacco tax and universal health care, and the institutionalisation of the health technology assessment process. She has also worked in the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation and has provided technical assistance to the government of the Philippines and the Greater Mekong Subregion on health financing, maternal and child health, and health impact assessment. Bev is a fellow of the Maurice Greenberg World Fellows Program at Yale University, the Equity Initiative and the Atlantic Institute. She holds an MD from the University of the Philippines and an MPH in Health Policy and Management from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health as a Fulbright Scholar.



Panelist

Erica Di Ruggiero

Director, Global Health & Associate Professor

Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto
Canada



Panelist

Justin Koonin

President

ACON

Australia

Justin Koonin represents Global North Civil Society Organisations on the UHC2030 Steering Committee. He is co-chair of the WHO Social Participation Technical Network, co-chair of the SDG3 Global Action Plan Civil Society Advisory Group, and the civil society representative on the Health Data Collaborative Steering Committee.

At a national level, Justin is President of ACON (formerly AIDS Council of New South Wales), Australia's largest civil society organisation working on HIV prevention, care and support, and the health of sexuality and gender diverse people more broadly. He is a former chair of the New South Wales Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby, the peak advocacy body for gay and lesbian people in that state.

Justin's work spans a diverse range of sectors. In addition to his efforts in health and human rights, he has worked as a postdoctoral researcher in mathematics at the University of Sydney, as a data scientist at PwC, and (currently) as a fund manager at Allan Gray. He holds a Ph.D. in Pure Mathematics from the University of Sydney, and is a Chartered Financial Analyst charterholder, as well as a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Panelist

Koku Awonoor

Director

Ghana Health Services
Ghana



Panelist

Takao Toda

Vice President for Human Security and Global Health

Japan International Cooperation Agency
Japan

Takao TODA (Ph. D.)

Vice President for Human Security and Global Health
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

As the Vice President for Human Security and Global Health, Dr. Toda promotes strategic planning and implementation of JICA's operations.

Dr. Toda received Ph.D at the Graduate School of International Development in Nagoya University in 2009, master's degree at the Graduate School of Frontier Sciences in the University of Tokyo in 2001, and LL.B at the Faculty of Law in Kyoto University in 1984. For more than three decades, he has been playing various key roles of strategizing and implementing Japan's ODA, such as Group Director on Peace Building, Group Director on Human Security, Senior Fellow of JICA Research Center, Chief Representative of Bangladesh Office, Director General of Human Development Department.

He has a wide range of knowledge and experience especially on the operationalization process of Human Security, which has been the core concept of Japan's diplomatic policy of international cooperation.

