



## **PLENARY SESSION 2**

**MAKING HEALTH FINANCING FOR UHC SAFE**

## | BACKGROUND

The world has advanced towards UHC, but not fast enough. More than half the world's population still does not have access to a basic package of health services, and more than 100 million individuals annually are impoverished due to high out-of-pocket (OOP) spending. Political commitment is the first step to mobilize more funding. Health can be a winning argument to raise more revenues in a pro-health and pro-poor manner. But countries also need to achieve more health for the money, i.e. to use the funds efficiently and equitably. It is essential to encourage and learn from new approaches, such as those involving digital, technological, financial and social innovations to raise and use funds for UHC. Progress requires consolidating and expanding existing strategies that reflect principles of good practice, while managing the political as well as technical challenges to implementation. The SAFE (Sustainable, Adequate, Fair, Efficient) approach to health financing offers useful guidance for the way forward.

## | OBJECTIVES

The plenary session will introduce the subtheme and set the stage for the following parallel sessions by (a) conveying key technical messages on health financing; (b) framing a debate among high-level panelists representing different stakeholders and thematic viewpoints, and (c) eliciting reactions and responses from the audience.



Panelist

## Yasuhisa Shiozaki

*Member of the House of Representatives*

Japan

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Yasuhisa Shiozaki is serving his eighth term as a Member of the House of Representatives, as a member of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). He currently chairs the Parliamentary Caucus on Eradication of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) and LDP's Special Mission Committee for the Promotion of Data Health, among others. He served as Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare from 2014 to 2017, Chief Cabinet Secretary and Minister of State for the Abduction Issue from 2006 to 2007, Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs from 2005 to 2006 and Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Finance from 1997 to 1998. He was Chairman of the Standing Committee on Judicial Affairs of the House of Representatives, and Senior Director of the Standing Committee on Budget. Prior to his transition to politics, he had worked at the Bank of Japan (Central Bank) for 11 years. He received his bachelor's degree in American Studies from the University of Tokyo in 1975 and his master's degree in public administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in 1982.