PARALLEL SESSION 3.3

MAKING HEALTH SERVICES ACCOUNTABLE TO THE PEOPLE – A GLOBAL TREND?

| BACKGROUND

To achieve SDG3 and Universal Health Coverage, health sectors and services must be held accountable to parliaments, national oversight bodies, the electoral, civil society, citizens, and patients themselves – within existing resource constraints and specific challenging facing the countries – to do the job they are mandated to do, free of corruption, and with maximum health outcomes for the people.

All parts and levels of the health sector needs to be held accountable and managed in a transparent manner: At the level of its leadership; strategic planning; maximizing and reaching health outcomes; proper financial management of the health budgets at all levels; the procurement of and access to affordable and quality medicines and contracting for infrastructure; efficient supply chain of commodities without wastage; impactful health promotion programmes and services; and the equitable access and quality of health care services at both primary and tertiary.

Central to ensure accountability and transparency in the health sector is the fight against the scourge of corruption, at all levels, and both at country and international levels, which is a major obstacle to the achievement of UHC in too many countries and so many ways. Corruption results in waste of resources; ineffective or even harmful care; collusion and kickbacks in the procurement of medicines and infrastructure contracts; illegal charging for free health services that exasperates equitable access; theft and diversion of medicines; and the list goes on.

Underpinning this session are the principles are enshrined in SDG 16 to "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels".

| OBJECTIVES

The objective of the session to recommend, and share examples of, concrete and actionable solutions to make the health sectors – at all levels of their institutions – accountable for the proper management of their budgets, procurement of medicines, achieving health outcomes it has committed to, and the quality and equitable access of the health services, fight the scourge of corruption. This accountability is to parliaments, oversight bodies, civil society, citizens, and the patients themselves.

The audience will hear about cases where countries have shown leadership in this area, as well as obstacles that have been encountered and overcome. The session will also provide a forum to discuss the accountability of the private sector to contribute to UHC and 'do no harm' in its business practices.

Panelist

Olga Stefanyshyna

Member of Parliament

Parliament of Ukraine
Ukraine

Olha Stefanyshyna

Member of the Parliament of Ukraine
Committee on Health

Olga substantially contributed to the reform of medical procurement and advocated other initiatives to fight corruption in Ukraine.
Before becoming an MP, Olga served as a Deputy Minister of Health of Ukraine for European Integration. She was responsible for public procurement of medicines and medical devices, vaccination and public health issues.

During the period of 2011-2018, Olga was the founder and Executive Director of "Patients of Ukraine" Charity Foundation, one of the most influential patients' movements in the country. Before that, in 2007, Olga headed the Policy and Advocacy Department in "All-Ukrainian Network of PLWH" Charitable Organization.

Olga is widely known for her significant contribution to the reform of public procurements in the field of healthcare, coordinated the creation of Health Reform Strategy for UKRAINE, as well as the long lasting fight for patients' access to safe and high quality medicine. Olga has also contributed to eliminating corruption from the procurement system allowing Ukraine to save 40% of budget costs.
Olga is married, has two daughters.