



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



Holger Michiel Van Eden

Regional Public Financial Management Advisor for Southeast Asia

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Mr. Holger van Eden has been the IMF Regional Public Financial Management (PFM) Advisor for Southeast Asia since November 2016. He is based in Bangkok at the IMF's Capacity Development Office in Thailand (CDOT). In his function he coordinates and provides IMF technical assistance and training in the PFM area in eight countries: Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. His main focus areas are budget preparation, fiscal risk management, public investment management, budget and fiscal responsibility law, treasury management, and financial management information systems. Previously he was Deputy Division Chief in the Public Financial Management II Division of the Fiscal Affairs Department of the IMF. He has worked extensively with Ministries of Finance in Eastern Europe, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. Mr. Van Eden has led and participated in more than 50 IMF technical assistance missions, including to China, Brazil, Japan, India, Mexico, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Mongolia, Mozambique, Colombia, Greece, the Netherlands, Belgium and Bhutan. Within the IMF he has had a leadership role in developing IMF research and board papers on reform of budget institutions, public investment management, and fiscal transparency. Before joining the IMF, Holger worked as team leader/project director in international consultancy, as an economic journalist and editor, and as a financial consultant for a global accounting firm. He started his career in the Treasury of the Dutch Ministry of Finance.