



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.



Moderator / Panelist

K. Srinath Reddy

President

Public Health Foundation of India
India

Prof. K. Srinath Reddy is President, Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) and formerly headed the Department of Cardiology at All India Institute of Medical Sciences. Prof Reddy is the first Indian to be elected as Foreign Associate Member of the National Academy of Medicine (formerly Institute of Medicine) of the National Academy of Sciences, USA. He served as the First Bernard Lown Visiting Professor of Cardiovascular Health at the Harvard School of Public Health (2009-13). He is presently an Adjunct Professor at Harvard, Emory & Sydney Universities. He has served on many WHO expert panels & has been the President of the World Heart Federation (2013-14). He chaired the High Level Expert Group on Universal Health Coverage, for the Planning Commission of India. Prof. Reddy is a member of the Leadership Council of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network and chairs the Thematic Group on Health in the SDSN. Prof. Reddy is a member of the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition. He has published more than 500 scientific papers. His several honours include WHO Director General's Award and Luther Terry Medal of American Cancer Society for Outstanding Contributions to global tobacco control and the Queen Elizabeth Medal for health promotion. He was conferred Padma Bhushan by the President of India in 2005. He has received honorary doctorates from the Universities of London, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Lausanne and two Indian Universities.