



Universal health coverage: Primary health care towards universal health coverage

EB144/12

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver this statement on behalf of UICC supported by the NCD Alliance.

We welcome the report and its focus on primary health care (PHC) as set out in the Astana Declaration which identified PHC as a core component of strong, resilient health systems, and which will help achieve universal health coverage and many health-related Sustainable Development Goals.

In order to ensure a comprehensive approach, we urge Member States to:

- **Ensure a lifecourse and person-centred approach to health across the continuum of care to help address co-morbidities.** UHC must span the continuum of care from health promotion and prevention, screening and diagnosis to treatment and care, including rehabilitation and palliative care. This approach will help structure services to deliver the care people need, and it is essential that this utilises robust referral networks from primary level to specialised care, as many diseases require these for successful treatment. It will also better support health systems to manage peoples' changing needs over time and respond to the increasing burden of co-morbidities, including the impact of NCDs on mental health and well-being.
- **Promote a 'One Health' agenda at the UN HLM on UHC.** The first HLM on UHC is an opportunity to highlight synergies between all health issues including those that have been the topic of previous HLMs. This is an occasion to showcase how actions on one determinant, risk factor, or health service can be cost-effective and benefit multiple diseases or conditions, providing an opportunity for better integrated health systems.
- **Amplify the voices of the people most affected.** Empower and guarantee the involvement of people living with cancer and NCDs, their carers and marginalised groups to co-develop services from planning to implementation and evaluation, to ensure that they meet their needs and provide a strong foundation for UHC through to 2030 and beyond.