



UHC2030 STEERING COMMITTEE
10th Session – 8 & 10 March 2022
Videoconference (Zoom)

DRAFT NOTE FOR THE RECORD

For Information For Review & Advice For Approval

UHC2030 Steering Committee (virtual) – 9th session 14-15 September 2021 1400-1700 CET

Summary

Meeting objective: Build momentum around a UHC2030 “push” on health systems strengthening for UHC in the ongoing COVID-19 response and recovery – and link this to plans for UHC Day and “now to 2023” strategies for the next UN High-Level Meeting on UHC.

Conclusions:

- Health systems narrative and priority actions agreed in principle by SC, together with priority entry points for UHC2030 to promote health systems agenda.
- All constituencies committed to help identify specific moments and promote health systems messages across their organisations (e.g. with negotiating teams and senior leadership).
- SC agreed way forward for how UHC2030 strengthens collaboration with parliamentarians (“option 2”: partner with existing networks).

Next meeting February 2022; interim catch-up/briefing will be scheduled by end November and follow-up calls with constituencies will be organized.

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Decision:

- SC approved Note for Record of March 2021 meeting plus Agenda for this meeting.

Justin Koonin (UHC2030 Co-Chair) introduced the meeting:

- **The COVID-19 crisis reinforces the importance of UHC**, linked to ensuring access to COVID-19 vaccines and other tools plus equitable access to all health services and emergency preparedness.
- **UHC2030 has unique value to elevate voices and action on health systems for UHC and health security goals.** It is well-positioned, with established messages, track record of mobilizing constituencies, and agreed role for the 2023 UN High Level Meeting on UHC.
- **Since the last SC meeting UHC2030 continues to show leadership** through Co-Chairs’ and political advisors’ statements, convening the new [Coalition of Partnerships for UHC and Global Health](#), sharing policy guidance and learning on health systems and UHC in the COVID-19 context and mobilizing diverse stakeholders including from civil society and the private sector.
- Justin **thanked all SC members for their ongoing commitment to UHC2030, and especially France and Japan for renewed financial contributions**, alongside ongoing support from the EC and welcomed new SC members from France and the Civil Society Engagement Mechanism.

Zsuzsanna Jakab (Deputy Director General, WHO) shared WHO’s view on strategic priorities to 2023:

- **UHC2030 has demonstrated its unique contribution to political commitment and collective action** on UHC, and its unique role in mobilizing diverse voices.

- To build on this, Dr Jakab encouraged **all partners to make full use of the UHC2030 platform and promote a shared health systems vision**, based on a primary healthcare approach, across their organisations. Dr Jakab will seek to leverage opportunities with the SDG3 Global Action Plan, UHC Partnership, and Access to Covid-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A).
- **UHC2030 is in good hands** – with strong leadership and energy from Co-Chairs, committed co-hosts, and renewed funding. Dr Jakab will continue to promote UHC2030’s role with donors, to help secure longer-term and more predictable funding.

Session 1 – “Leave no one’s health behind”: building a shared health systems narrative

Objectives: Agree key elements of a shared health systems vision, narrative and actions for UHC and health security goals, plus next steps for how constituencies contribute to action.

Outcomes:

- Health systems narrative agreed in principle.
- Agreed importance of 12 actions & need for a more streamlined comms product

Next steps:

- Core Team finalizes paper: address role of civil society and communities, rights-based focus, timing of twin goals (not “emergencies now, UHC later”), role of private sector
- Group and/or rationalize “12 actions” into a smaller number & more prioritized – with more focus on political “how” plus addressing key blocks (e.g. undermining of trust in governments and science, breakdowns in global solidarity)
- Core Team will facilitate follow-up discussions with constituencies to agree their specific actions/contributions to the UHC2030 push on health systems.

Richard Gregory (UHC2030 Core Team) presented highlights from UHC2030’s new health systems paper:

- **The paper provides a strategic narrative and priority actions** for UHC2030 constituencies and partners to consider at national, regional and global levels.
- **Rationale:** amplify messages across UHC2030’s diverse membership, guide political advocacy and coordination across UHC2030 constituencies, and signpost to relevant normative or technical guidance or support for implementation (NB UHC2030 does not itself provide this; its members do).
- **Approach:** the arguments and proposed actions reflect and bring together recommendations from recent high-profile initiatives and reports on how strengthening health systems will contribute to UHC and health security goals. Many of these were developed by organisations that are part of UHC2030. SC & other stakeholders’ feedback is important to refine key messages and recommendations. Follow-up will include constituency discussions to agree specific actions/contributions.
- **Key messages:**
 - “UHC and health security are what we want. Strengthening health systems is what we must do”;
 - Two cross-cutting policy objectives: equity and resilience;
 - Two priority “systems shifts”: investment and integration;
 - For SC discussion: 12 priority health systems actions & how we mobilise around them.

Discussion points

- Feng Zhao (World Bank) opened the discussion, welcoming the **clarity of message** on linked UHC and health security goals, and equity and resilience objectives. He suggested a stronger **economic argument** in the narrative. He supported the 12 priority actions in the paper and challenged all of UHC2030's membership to help make them concrete.
- There was **strong SC support for this health systems narrative**. SC members agreed that **UHC2030's membership should use the narrative to promote specific asks/actions** – and avoid the risk that key messages become too general.
- **Emergencies must be part of the health systems conversation, and vice versa** – and not “we do emergencies now and do health systems later”. We must be clear on what we mean by aligning action for UHC and health security (e.g. clear messages on strengthening health systems to be resilient to respond to shocks and continue to provide essential services, what this means for health workers, etc.).
- The narrative should be more explicit on **the role of civil society and communities** – e.g. in service delivery, monitoring and accountability – and on a rights-based approach (i.e. health as a universal human right). **Gender** must be cross-cutting throughout our messages and actions. **Solidarity** for health equity and health systems resilience is critical and should be brought out more explicitly.
- The narrative must also be strong on **economic arguments** for strengthening health systems. We must reinforce the message that health is an investment, not a cost – and identify the windows of opportunity to promote action (both domestically and internationally). These investments must also ensure **quality** (especially in primary health care – “from poor care for poor people to smart care for everyone”).
- **12 actions is a lot**. SC requested the Core Team to distil/group these into a smaller number of communications messages. **Constituencies will develop their specific contributions/actions** which sit beneath these – and should **agree how they will report back** and/or highlight their contributions in external communications. It's good that the 12 proposed actions already align with UHC2030's Key Asks.
- **Some messages/actions may require more 'edge' to them**. It is easy for all stakeholders to say “we support strengthening health systems”, but harder to call out actions within/across our organisations that are not consistent with a health systems or UHC approach.

Session 2 – How UHC2030 helps shape a health systems agenda and decision-making

Objectives: Agree priority moments, audiences and approaches to promote the health systems vision – and how this contributes to results and outcomes in countries.

Outcomes:

- SC agreed on the 6 influencing entry points in background paper
- SC agreed that all constituencies will help identify key entry points (meetings, events, etc) + promote HSS and UHC messages/actions across their organisations and with their negotiating teams; UHC2030 Secretariat will support with key messages/scripts

Next steps:

- UHC2030 Secretariat to develop “advocacy script” of key messages based on HSS paper, plus timeline of key events for constituencies to contribute to.

- Seize window of opportunities to promote our narrative: e.g. G20 joint meeting of ministers of finance and health.
- Leverage important up-coming health security moments to keep UHC and HSS on the agenda: e.g. US-led summit on COVID-19.
- Identify more regional and inter-disciplinary opportunities

Marjolaine Nicod (UHC2030 Core Team) presented a health systems influencing approach for UHC2030:

- UHC2030 aims to **increase all stakeholders' focus on health systems for UHC in the short term, and to build momentum ahead of the 2023 UHC high-level meeting (HLM)**. We have identified opportunities for the next 6 months and “now to 2023”, and for how SC members and constituencies can engage at different levels (global, regional, national).
- **Priorities** include: **consistent and collective messaging** that equitable and resilient health systems are the most efficient way to contribute to UHC and health security goals; an **inclusive, clear campaign for the run-up to the 2023 UHC HLM**, with opportunities for SC members to be visible and represented at highest leadership levels; **promoting specific health systems actions and contributions of UHC2030 constituencies** – including on gender equity, multi-stakeholder action (NB civil society & communities, private sector) and global solidarity.
- **Immediate outcomes** (next 6 months): integration of COVID-19 tools into stronger and fairer health systems; recognition of health systems + global solidarity as key means for UHC and health security; HSS for UHC understood as a long-term priority that needs immediate action.
- **Medium-term outcomes** (now to 2023 HLM): improved HSS financing for UHC (domestic and external, including GHIs); increased advocacy for equity (incl. gender) and fair health investment; stronger commitment to social participation and accountability; senior leadership of organizations within UHC2030 champion and act on health systems; G7 and G20 (re-)commit and increase funding for health systems; health systems commitment and actions by all UHC members.
- **Opportunities for UHC2030:**
 - **Global political processes in 2022-2023.** G7 and G20 Presidencies provide UHC2030 members, the UHC Political Advisory Panel, and CSEM members opportunities to drive global, regional, and national action on HSS for UHC.
 - **Health architecture & governance (WHA, boards, replenishments, etc.).** UHC2030 membership should promote flexible funding and approaches that align to national/regional priorities and allow for service integration and long-term capacity building at country level.
 - **Specific meetings and events on UHC and health security:** promote resilience, equity (especially gender), integration, fair and coherent investment, social participation, accountability for results.

Discussion points

- Francesca Colombo (OECD) opened the discussion, and asked SC members to **focus strategically on “what we want”** for the 2023 High-Level Meeting plus “how we

influence”. For example, G20 Health and Finance ministers meetings are an opportunity to position health as an investment, not a cost.

- **The health systems narrative should shape UHC2030 messaging for the 2023 High-Level Meeting;** the UHC movement can promote specific asks on equity, resilience, global solidarity and integration. **Simple messages need refining on “what we mean by HSS” and “what we mean by UHC”** – to promote a long-term, coherent approach to strengthening systems.
- This influencing agenda is not only external: **we all have a duty to identify key moments and promote UHC messages and actions within our own organisations.** We should work to insert HSS and UHC language (with the *meaning*, not just the words) in all relevant discussions, both for core principles (arguments for equity, social and economic benefits/stability, etc.) and specific actions.
- UHC2030 constituencies must help **enable vulnerable groups to be part of the UHC movement and discussions** (especially with governments) at all levels. UHC2030 and its membership have led important work on social participation and the CSEM Health for All Toolkit, and can help build civil society capacity to advocate for strong health systems.
- **Key moments and opportunities include** the G7, G20 (and C20), EU-Africa summit, France’s EU presidency (France will use the UHC2030 paper to promote HSS), UNGA, the UN Global Health and Foreign Policy resolution process, Independent Panel on Pandemic Preparedness and Response follow-up, proposed Global Health Threats Council, and post-Astana PHC follow-up

Session 3 – Joining up the health systems vision and UHC political processes

Objective: Make strategic linkages to reinforce our health systems and UHC vision in key national and global political processes.

Outcomes:

- SC updated on 2023 HLM, Coalition of Partnerships for UHC and Global Health, UHC Day 2021, State of UHC Commitment
- SC agreed UHC2030 approach with parliamentarians [“Option 2”: partner with existing networks rather than seeking direct outreach

Next steps:

- Identify parliamentary networks to work with and develop plans (e.g. for tools/learning to support engagement with networks) in workplan and budget – to present at next SC meeting.

Akihito Watabe (UHC2030 Core Team) gave updates on:

- The [Coalition of Partnerships for UHC and Global Health](#). Launched in July 2021, this brings together major disease- and issue-specific partnerships for a shared advocacy and accountability approach – including to advocate for ambitious shared goals in the 2023 HLM on UHC.
- [UHC Day 2021](#) (12 December), “leave no one’s health behind: invest in health systems for all”.
- The [scope, modalities, format and organization \(A/RES/75/315\)](#) for the 2023 UN HLM on UHC, which will be on 28 September 2023. UHC2030 will be invited to support the

preparatory process and the meeting, including a multi-stakeholder hearing (before June 2023).

- Upcoming political advocacy opportunities including an UNGA high level event on UHC (30 September) to kick off 2023 preparations, UHC Day, the UNITE Global Summit (with parliamentary networks), and the SDG Voluntary National Reviews process.
- Proposed products and milestones for 2022 including the State of UHC Commitment review, UN Secretary General’s Progress Report, and renewal/update of the UHC2030 key asks.

Akihito Watabe also presented the following three options for UHC2030 to engage more systematically with a range of parliamentary networks, building on existing technical support for parliamentary initiatives on UHC.

- Establish a Parliamentary Constituency
- Partner with Existing Parliamentary Network(s)
- Enhance sharing of knowledge, lessons and experience of parliamentarians

Discussion points

- Gabriela Cuevas Barron (UHC2030 Co-Chair) reinforced the importance of UHC2030 working closely with parliamentarians.
- SC members welcomed the opportunity to engage with parliamentarians and the role UHC2030 can play in helping civil society organisations to connect with them, particularly at country level. They agreed on partnering with existing parliamentarians networks to work with parliamentarians as the preferred approach (option 2) to leverage the power of parliamentarians as a driving force of change, rather than seeking direct outreach.
- Core Team was tasked with developing specific plans/products to present in the 2022 workplan

Other business

SC members paid special thanks to Oanh Khuat (outgoing CSEM representative) for her dedicated contributions to UHC2030.



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