

Primary health care

The Seventy-second World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on universal health coverage: primary health care towards universal health coverage;¹

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in 2015, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 3, which calls on stakeholders to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all individuals at all ages;

Reaffirming the ambitious and visionary Declaration of Alma-Ata (1978) in pursuit of health for all;

Welcoming the convening of the Global Conference on Primary Health Care: from Alma-Ata towards universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals (Astana, 25 and 26 October 2018), during which Member States renewed their commitment to primary health care through a whole-of-society approach around primary health care as a cornerstone of a sustainable health system for universal health coverage and the health-related Sustainable Development Goals, in particular target 3.8 on achieving universal health coverage;

Recalling the approach regarding primary health care and universal health coverage contained in resolution WHA69.11 (2016) on health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

1. WELCOMES the Declaration of Astana adopted at the Global Conference on Primary Health Care in Astana on 25 October 2018;
2. URGES Member States² to take measures to share and implement the vision and commitments of the Declaration of Astana according to national contexts;
3. CALLS UPON all relevant stakeholders:
 - (1) to align their actions and support to national policies, strategies and plans in the spirit of partnership and effective development cooperation in implementing the vision and commitments of the Declaration of Astana;

¹ Document A72/12.

² And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

(2) to provide support to Member States in mobilizing human, technological, financial and information resources to help to build strong and sustainable primary health care, as envisaged in the Declaration of Astana;

4. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to support Member States, as appropriate, in strengthening primary health care, including the implementation of the vision and commitments of the Declaration of Astana in coordination with all relevant stakeholders;

(2) to develop, in consultation with, and with the involvement of more expertise from, Member States, and in time for consideration by the Seventy-third World Health Assembly, an operational framework for primary health care, to be taken fully into account in the WHO general programmes of work and programme budgets in order to strengthen health systems and support countries in scaling-up national implementation efforts on primary health care;

(3) to ensure that WHO promotes the vision and commitments in the Declaration of Astana in its work and overall organizational efforts, and enhances institutional capacity and leadership across WHO at all levels of the Organization, including regional and country offices, in order to support Member States in strengthening primary health care;

(4) to report regularly through the Executive Board to the Health Assembly on progress made in strengthening primary health care, including implementation of the vision and commitments of the Declaration of Astana, as part of all reporting on progress towards achieving universal health coverage by 2030.

Sixth plenary meeting, 24 May 2019
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