



**Statement at the 72nd Session of the WHO World Health Assembly
20 – 28 May 2019**

Agenda Item: 11.5

Universal health coverage: Primary health care towards universal health coverage A72/12

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:

- **Adopt person-centred approach to health across the continuum of care to help address multi-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 and this approach will help structure services to deliver this. We warmly welcome the inclusion of the need for robust referral networks from primary level to specialised care in the report, as many NCDs require these for successful treatment.
- **Implement a lifecourse approach to health planning** to better support health systems to manage peoples' changing needs over time and respond to the increasing burden of multi-morbidities, including the challenges presented by increasing health emergencies and the demand for care in humanitarian settings, and recognising the impact of NCDs on mental health and well-being.
- **Ensure people living with a single or multiple conditions are meaningfully engaged** throughout the development, implementation, and evaluation of PHC systems, as the lived experience of people who frequently interact with the health system can help health systems to be more responsive to people's needs.

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