

Statement
on
“Universal Health Coverage : Leaving No – one Behind”
by
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to be delivered at
the 72nd World Health Assembly

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Mr. President,
Madame Director General,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Last year, the World Health Assembly approved the General Program of Work with triple billion goals. It includes one billion more people covered by UHC within 2020. It is quite challenging as we have only two years to achieve that goal.

Thanks to Prime Minister Modi of India who announced and implemented the so – called ‘Modi-care’ that covers UHC for half a billion population. This is half of our goal.

Most notably, Modi care focusses on the two lowest quintiles.

This is an excellent example of putting the poor, the marginalized and the vulnerable as ‘the first not the last mile’ of UHC.

Mr. President,

We can start to put the poor, the vulnerable, and the marginalized, as the ‘first mile’ of UHC even when we are a least developed country.

Since 1975, Thailand started to cover 35% of our population, living under poverty line, when our GDP per capita was mere \$US 390. We gradually moved forward to achieve total population coverage in 2002 at \$US 1,900 per capita - 27 years of long march.

Excellencies,

‘Leaving no one behind’ motivates the population to feel that they are part of the country and not left to struggle by themselves. Thus building a UHC system that leaves no one behind is building the solidarity of a Nation.

Achieving UHC needs political commitment, people’s ownership, stakeholders’ active participation, regulatory and research capacity, adequate and equitable health care systems based on Primary Health Care, and sustainable, adequate, fair, and efficient financing systems. Most important, and maybe least talked about, is the governance of the systems.

To address the issue of ‘good governance’ on UHC, there will be a side event led by Japan, Kenya, and Thailand. It is convened at 1230 to 2 pm in Room Seven, on Wednesday.

Furthermore, to discuss the next steps after the UNGA High Level Meeting on UHC this September, the Prince Mahidol Award Conference in January 2020 will focus on it. This conference is also the Second UHC Forum, cohosted by the Japanese Government.

Excellencies,

From our four decades of movement on UHC, we learned that to ensure a successful and sustainable UHC, we should.

“Start where we are; use what we have, learn from others, and continue to act in our context.”

Thailand is committed to sharing our experiences, and also to learning social innovations from countries who are moving towards UHC.

Thank you.

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