

Message from the Director General of the World Health Organization

Director General of WHO Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus's address

Greetings from Geneva and congratulations to the African Centre for Global Health and Social Transformation on its 10th Anniversary. As a son of Africa, I am proud to see the progress our continent is making in many areas including health. We have made great strides against HIV, Malaria, maternal and child mortality and more; but many challenges lie ahead, the greatest is the quest for Universal Health Coverage (UHC). UHC is a simple idea that everyone should be able to access the health services they need without suffering financial hardship. Yet so far too many of our people, this is a distant dream. Strengthening the health workforce and health systems governance are fundamental to achieving UHC and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Public spending on health workers is an investment in equitable and prosperous societies and UHC is not possible without strong, just and accountable health systems. There is now unprecedented political momentum for Universal Health Coverage. This September, Presidents and Prime Ministers will gather at the United Nations General Assembly to commit to Universal Health Coverage. Your deliberations over this next three days can help guide us as we accelerate progress towards a healthier, safer, fair world.

I wish you a successful meeting.

Thank you.



WHO DG Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus