

A note from PMNCH¹ and UHC2030² on the Summit of the Future Prioritizing health and well-being for all, including for women, children and adolescents

COVID-19 demonstrated the devastating impacts health crises can have on our world. The Summit of the Future must prioritize health and well-being for all, particularly for vulnerable populations, to progress action towards universal health coverage, leave no one behind and set the blueprint for the post 2030 development agenda.

Key asks for the Summit of the Future

The Summit of the Future should:

1. Recognize health and well-being, including disease outbreaks, pandemics, and health emergencies, as having critical impacts for the international system and future generations. We must make progress towards universal health coverage to build equitable and resilient health systems that will equip future generations to respond to these emergencies.
2. Reflect the interlinked nature of the SDGs and the critical role of universal health coverage and gender equality, not only to achieving health and well-being targets, but leaving no one behind and meeting SDG agenda as a whole, particularly eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty.
3. Retain references to the high-level meeting on universal health coverage and health and well-being related texts, key to ensuring the Summit reaffirms the critical priority of strengthening health systems through primary health care, as the means to achieve universal health coverage and health security as two intertwined goals for now and for beyond 2030.
4. Embody the principles of equity, non-discrimination, social justice, and human rights; ensuring equitable access to resources and opportunities for all, particularly the most vulnerable including children, adolescents, youth, and women.
5. Call for the integration of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights in national and subnational plans, using a multistakeholder approach to ensure progress towards achieving universal health coverage.
6. Recognize adolescents and youth as agents of change and foster their leadership and action by ensuring meaningful adolescent and youth engagement in policy design, implementation, and evaluation.

High-level messages for the Summit of the Future

- Universal health coverage and gender equality must be at the front and centre of the Summit of the Future's agenda, the post 2030 development agenda, and our collective global actions.
- Future challenges need multilateral solutions. The international community must act together with unity, international solidarity, cooperation and renewed multilateralism to create an enabling environment for health for all at all levels.
- The Summit must acknowledge that achieving universal health coverage is critical for our collective response to global threats.
- By prioritizing the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and well-being for all, and accelerating actions towards the achievement of universal health coverage, we move progress towards the 2030 Agenda as a whole and lay the foundation for fairer and safer world for the future.
- We must prioritize universal health coverage, based on a primary health care approach. Primary health care is the most inclusive, equitable, cost-effective and efficient approach to enhance people's physical and mental health.
- The Summit must dismantle barriers and promote equal opportunities for all, leaving no one behind, in particular women and girls. Acting on commitments for universal health coverage means strengthening coverage of quality health services and financial protection, while addressing other barriers that hinder vulnerable and marginalised populations from accessing the full range of services they need to ensure their comprehensive well-being.
- Adolescents belong to the age group of 10-19 years old, constitute a distinct subset within the broader young population aged 10-24 years old and represent a unique stage of human development, crucial for establishing the foundations of good health and development. Investing in adolescents has profound impact and long-term benefits, as it not only ensures a healthy transition into adulthood but also influences the trajectory of societies and communities as a whole.
- Access to comprehensive sexuality and reproductive health and rights information, education, and services is a fundamental human right recognized by international human rights frameworks, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action. Governments have an obligation to fulfill young people's rights to health, education, and information, regardless of their age, gender, or socio-economic status.

¹ The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH) is the world's largest alliance for women's, children's and adolescents' health and well-being, with nearly 1,500 members working together through 10 constituency groups (governments and partner organizations) working to mobilize, align and amplify the collective efforts of partners to every woman, child and adolescent is able to realize their right to health and well-being, leaving no one behind. Learn more at pmnch.who.int

² UHC2030 is the global movement to build stronger health systems for universal health coverage (UHC). It brings together diverse voices and perspectives for the common goal of achieving UHC, sustaining momentum around UHC commitments and supporting collective action and accountability. Learn more at uhc2030.org.

Pact for the Future	
1	In 2015, we resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and to heal and secure our planet. We have made some progress, but the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals is in peril. Poverty has increased and inequalities have widened. Climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution and health emergencies pose immense risks to our natural environment and our prospects for development.
6 (b)	Secure ambitious outcomes on financing all aspects of social development, including universal social protection and universal health coverage, at the Second World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development in 2025, and request the Secretary-General to provide analysis and recommendations on these issues for the consideration of Member States.
8	Retain references to gender equality and SRHR: We recognize that the achievement of full human potential and sustainable development is not possible if one half of humanity continues to be denied full human rights and opportunities. Sustained and inclusive socio-economic development can only be realized when all women, adolescents and girls have their full human rights respected, protected and fulfilled, including comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights.
11	Add (i) Commit to improving the ability of health systems to anticipate, and implement adaption interventions against climate-sensitive disease and health risks, including by bolstering climate-health information services, surveillance, early warning and response systems and a climate-ready health workforce.
12	Retain reference to impact of adverse impacts of climate change on health and well-being (...) We must conserve, restore and sustainably use our planet's natural resources to support the health and well-being of present and future generations. We will address the interlinked causes and adverse impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, water scarcity, floods, desertification, land degradation, sand and dust storms through the implementation of existing intergovernmentally agreed commitments and multilateral environmental agreements. (...)
34 (a)	Ensure science, technology and innovation contributes to our efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including in the areas of food and nutrition, health, water and sanitation, energy, climate and environment and to reaching everyone, including people in vulnerable situations and people living in underserved, rural and remote areas or in areas difficult to access.
42	Retain references to ensuring universal health coverage and access to SRHR for young people We stress the importance of investing in essential social services for young people, especially health, education and social protection. (...) (b) Accelerate efforts to ensure young people enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and well-being, access to universal health coverage, including comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights.
46	Our priority is to renew people's trust in global institutions by making them more representative of today's world and more effective at delivering on the commitments that we have made to one another and our people. We renew our commitment to international cooperation, guided by the principles of trust, equity, solidarity and universality. We will transform global governance and strengthen the multilateral system to help us achieve a world that is healthier, safer, more peaceful, more just, more equal, more inclusive, more sustainable, and more prosperous.
Declaration on Future Generations	
6	Recognizing children, adolescents and youth as critical agents of change and the need for intergenerational dialogue and engagement, including among children, adolescents, youth and older persons, in our policy and decision-making processes in order to safeguard the needs and interests of future generations,
27	Guarantee the rights of future generations to the highest standard of health and well-being, through universal health coverage including comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights, and strengthened and resilient health systems, to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all across generations.
Global Digital Compact	
8d	Gender equality and empowerment: The full, equal, and meaningful engagement, participation and leadership of women and adolescent girls in the digital space is essential to close gender digital divides and advance sustainable development. Our cooperation will empower women and adolescent girls, [...]
8k	Multi-stakeholder: Governments, the private sector, civil society, the technical community, academia, international and regional organizations, and adolescents and youth themselves have roles and responsibilities in advancing an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital future. [...]
22	We recognize that human rights and sustainable development are interdependent enablers for closing digital divides. We commit to respect, protect and promote the human rights of everyone, with special attention to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women, children, adolescents and youth, in the digital space. [...]

Further resources:

[Action Agenda from the UHC Movement](#)

[Agenda for Action for Adolescents](#)