WFUNA
INTERNATIONAL
MODEL UN
(WIMUN)

Resource Guide

**WFUNA International Model United Nations
New York City 2024**

*30 January 2024 - 2 February 2024
Intercontinental Times Square and The Westin Times Square*

World Health Assembly

**Universal Health Coverage: Reorienting health
systems to primary health care**

Welcome to WFUNA International Model United Nations New York 2024.

We are very pleased to introduce you to the most authentic simulation of the United Nations in the world; and hope to contribute to your understanding of the Organisation, its mandate, and its critical role in global affairs.

Through a series of pre-conference webinars that will be offered and documents – like this resource guide – we aim to educate you not only about the global issues on the UN agenda, but also about the ways and means through which those topics are discussed, debated and negotiated by real UN diplomats.

This resource guide will provide you with a head start in doing research to gain a deeper understanding of the global issue that you will be discussing and the actions that the government you have been assigned recommends that the international community should take to address this issue. To make the research process a bit easier, the resource guide has been divided into sections and sub-sections to assist you in researching these two components. We strongly recommend you to give a careful look through the sources listed below so that the interaction with your peers is as exciting as possible.

We wish you all the very best in this journey of learning!

Topic Description:

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) has its main objective that all people receive quality essential health services throughout their lives without financial difficulties. Its goal is to promote Health as a universal good; accepting that Health is a basic human right.

Promoting UHC knowledge and actively assisting with its implementation can result in significant and long-lasting changes. These adjustments would include a decline in fatalities attributable to preventable diseases and a swift improvement in the caliber of medical interventions.

Implementing patient-cantered integrated care and establishing strong financial structures are essential steps in realizing this ambition. By tailoring health services to respective needs, the primary healthcare approach should be developed in synergy with cross-sectoral policies to address the determinants of health by empowering social participation for enhanced confidence in the global health agenda.

Official Resources on the Topic

- [WHO UHC GLOBAL ROADMAP: PREPARING FOR THE UN HIGH-LEVEL MEETING 2023 AND ACHIEVING HEALTH FOR ALL](#)
  Summary: The World Health Organization (WHO) provides tools to support UHC efforts. UHC, founded on equity and efficiency, has the potential to save lives, increase life expectancy, and reduce disease burdens through primary healthcare.
  Published: 2023

- [Concept for HLM on UHC](#)
  Summary: The High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage in September 2023 reviews progress, identifies gaps, and seeks solutions to achieve universal health coverage by 2030, focusing on inclusivity and cost-effectiveness. It follows a 2019 declaration and a May 2023 multi-stakeholder hearing to discuss urgent actions and milestones.
  Published: 2023

- [Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage](#)
  Summary: Heads of State and Government gather at the UN to review the 2019 declaration on universal health coverage, emphasizing the right to health and commitment to achieving it by 2030. They stress its importance for the Sustainable Development Goals, inequality reduction, and addressing health disparities.
  Published: 2023

- [Billions left behind on the path to universal health coverage](#)
  Summary: The 2023 Universal Health Coverage Global Monitoring Report by the WHO and World Bank reveals a lack of progress, with over half the world lacking essential health coverage. Rising catastrophic out-of-pocket health spending pushes people into poverty, demanding greater investment and a focus on equity in healthcare.
  Published: 2023

- [Primary Health Care on the Road to Universal Health Coverage 2019 MONITORING REPORT](#)
  Summary: A political commitment to Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is critical. Financial hardship is still present, and access issues related to gender are looked at. Strong primary healthcare is prioritized for effectiveness and equity. In order to achieve universal health coverage, governments are recommended to allocate an additional 1% of

their GDP on basic healthcare. UHC is considered a feasible objective with political commitment. It shows that all regions and all income groups have made improvements, with lower income countries making the greatest gains. On the downside, poorer countries still lag behind, and the overall pace of progress is slowing.
Published: 2019

- Organizing health care services to ensure universal health coverage
  Summary: Emphasizes the core components that are essential to fortify healthcare systems like service design, planning, and delivery support.
  Published: 2023

- Reorienting health systems to primary health care as a resilient foundation for universal health coverage and preparations for a high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on universal health coverage (who.int)
  Summary: Report by the Director-General on WHO Executive Board 152nd session Provisional agenda item 5 (EB152/5)
  Published: 2023

- WHO welcomes landmark UN declaration on universal health coverage
  Summary: Leaders from around the world agreed to prioritize primary healthcare, avoid financial burdens, enhance infrastructure, and report progress by 2023 in a key United Nations Declaration on universal health coverage (UHC). This promotes the development and global health goals.
  Published: 2019

- Countries must invest at least 1% more of GDP on primary health care to eliminate glaring coverage gaps
  Summary: To close coverage gaps and reach the 2030 health targets, nations must boost spending on primary healthcare by at least 1% of their GDP. $200 billion yearly may be spent on primary healthcare in low- and middle-income countries, adding 3.7 years to life expectancy and saving lives.
  Published: 2019

- POLICY BRIEF: Universal Health Coverage and Primary Health Care
  Summary: Access to global health services has increased over the past 20 years, but there are still large gaps, particularly for the underprivileged, marginalized, and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Poor healthcare infrastructure, a lack of qualified medical

personnel, restricted access to drugs and immunizations are all common problems in SIDS. In order to attain UHC, SDG 3, and health security post-pandemic, countries must strengthen their primary healthcare and health systems.
Published: 2021

- [(Part 3) Multistakeholder Hearings in preparation of the General Assembly High-level Meetings on the Fight against Tuberculosis, Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response and Universal Health Coverage - General Assembly, 77th session](#)
  Summary: The convergence of epidemic diseases, geopolitical conflict, trade disruption, ecological degradation, and climate change poses intricate challenges to global health. An upcoming hearing aims to gather stakeholder input on urgent actions, investments, and a comprehensive approach to pandemic preparedness, strengthening efforts towards the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.
  Published: n.d

- [Universal Health Coverage: IOM Committed to Ensuring Migrants are Included in Sustainable Development Goals Target](#)
  Summary*:* IOM collaborates with member states to promote Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by supporting projects and advocating for inclusive policies. In Chile, it assisted in developing the Public Health Policy for International Migrants, aiming to provide comprehensive healthcare to migrants, contributing to UHC.
  Published: 2018

Official Statements or Documents issued by Member States

- [High-level meeting on universal health coverage - General Assembly, 78th session](#)
Summary*:* The high-level meeting on universal health coverage involves numerous countries, including the Republic of Chile, the Republic of Zimbabwe, the Caribbean Community, Japan, Nepal, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Republic of Haiti, Malta, Brazil, Indonesia, Guyana, European Union, Egypt, Thailand, South Africa, Rwanda, Poland, Pakistan, Togo, Uganda, Jordan, Norway, Singapore, Tajikistan, Malaysia, Hungary, USA, Cuba, Namibia, Republic of San Marino, Argentina, Tobago, Venezuela, Spain, Republic of Moldova, Jemen, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Paraguay, Philippines, Ecuador, Denmark, Cote d'Ivoir, El Salvador, Netherlands, Eritrea, Italy, Qatar, Trinidad and Tobago, Ghana, Maldives, Kuwait, Iraq, Estonia, Portugal, Vietnam etc. The focus is on expanding health ambitions post-COVID, with the goal of reviewing the 2019 Political Declaration to identify solutions for achieving universal health coverage by 2030. The meeting aims to approve an action-oriented Political Declaration through intergovernmental negotiations for adoption by the General Assembly.
Published: 2023

- [UHC law in practice: legal access rights to health care: country profile: Germany](#)
Summary*:* Considering factors including statutory insurance, population coverage, benefit definition, anti-discrimination policies, and access hurdles, this profile evaluates Germany's legal capacity for universal healthcare access.
Published: 2019

- [STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA AT THE 76th SESSION OF WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY AGENDA 13.1 UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE 13.2 POLITICAL DECLARATION OF THE THIRD HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASE AND MENTAL HEALTH](#)
Summary: Indonesia appreciates the Secretariat's work on UN agenda items 13.1 and 13.2, thanks Thailand for UHC documents, and reports near-global UHC coverage. They emphasize improving UHC quality, highlight the need for medical oxygen, and support NCD prevention. They call for transparency and inclusivity in the finalization process.
Published: 2023

- [STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF INDIA AT THE 76th SESSION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY AGENDA 13.1 UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE 13.2 POLITICAL](#)

[DECLARATION OF THE THIRD HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASE AND MENTAL HEALTH](#)

Summary*:* India endorses reorienting health systems for Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Ayushman Bharat, launched in 2018, transforms primary care centers into Health and Wellness Centers, offering comprehensive services and focusing on non-communicable diseases (NCDs). India commits to a holistic approach and "Whole of Government and Whole of Society" effort to address NCDs globally.
Published: 2023

- [Contributions to Belize's intervention during the 76th World Health Assembly](#)

Summary*:* Belize is committed to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by monitoring essential service coverage and reducing catastrophic health spending. The UHC service coverage index has improved, and government health spending has increased, relieving out-of-pocket expenses. Belize is expanding its National Health Insurance scheme and strengthening primary healthcare as a resilient foundation for UHC.
Published: 2023

- [Statement by the Delegation of Columbia at the 76th Session f the World Health Assembly Agenda 13. 1 Universal Health COverage 13. 2 Political Declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of Non-Communicable Disease and mental health](#)
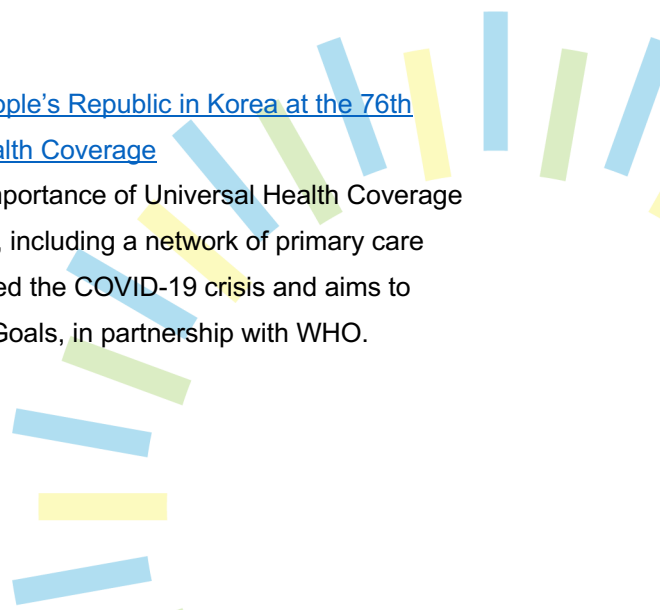
Summary*:* Colombia is focusing on reorienting its healthcare system towards primary care to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC). They aim to provide integrated and accessible health services through territorialized primary care networks. This approach, part of a healthcare reform strategy, emphasizes permanent availability and equitable access to health services without discrimination. It also addresses preventable mortality, climate change adaptation, and mental health.
Published: 2023

- [Statement by the Delegation of the Democratic People's Republic in Korea at the 76th World Health Assembly Agenda 13.1 Universal Health Coverage](#)

Summary: North Korea (DPRK) appreciates the importance of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and has a well-regulated healthcare system, including a network of primary care units and telemedicine. DPRK successfully managed the COVID-19 crisis and aims to advance health-related Sustainable Development Goals, in partnership with WHO.
Published: 2023

- [Statement of the Slovak Republic 76th World Health Assembly Item 13.1 Universal health coverage; and 13.2 Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and mental health](#)

Summary: Slovakia aligns with the EU's statement on non-communicable diseases (NCDs), acknowledging the impact of recent crises on NCD programs and healthcare workers. They appreciate WHO's support in organizing consultations and co-organizing events on NCDs and cancer care. Slovakia anticipates a WHO mission to improve health data collection and emphasizes the need for enhanced equality in childhood cancer care.
Published: 2023

Official Statements or Documents issued by Regional & Political Groups

- Universal health coverage: moving towards better health : action framework for the Western Pacific Region

  Summary*:* For the past ten years, the WHO Western Pacific Region Member States have made Universal Health Coverage (UHC) a top priority in order to guarantee high-quality healthcare without financial burden. Changing demographics and economic trends are only two examples of the issues they face. With a thorough strategy covering 15 action domains, the region created an action framework to direct UHC progress.
  Published: 2016

- Statement of the European Union at the 76th World Health Assembly Item 13.2 – Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and mental health

  Summary*:* The EU, joined by various countries, acknowledges the significant NCD burden, expressing concern over slow progress in meeting 2025 global targets. They stress the importance of mental health, equitable access, One Health approaches, and comprehensive NCD strategies. Preparing for the 2025 NCD HLM in New York, they call for cross-sectoral involvement with WHO.
  Published: 2023

- Health and demography

  Summary*:* The EU's Global Health Strategy, introduced in 2022, aims to address global health challenges, strengthen health systems, and support partner countries in achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC). The EU actively participates in global initiatives, including the UHC Partnership and UHC2030, to promote UHC and enhance health systems worldwide.
  Published: N/A

- Statement of the Commonwealth at the 76th World Health Assembly Agenda Item 13.1: Reorienting health systems to primary health care as a resilient foundation for universal health coverage and preparations for a highlevel meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on universal health coverage

  Summary*:* The Commonwealth Secretariat emphasizes its commitment to strengthening primary healthcare (PHC) within its 56 diverse member countries. They organized a ministerial meeting in May 2023 to review PHC efforts and promote collective progress monitoring and best practice sharing. The Commonwealth will collaborate with WHO to

assist countries in achieving UHC 2030 targets, especially for vulnerable and small states, and develop a collective voice on UHC for the upcoming UN HLM in September 2023.

Published: 2023

Official Documents about the situation in UN regions or Member States
Asia Pacific

- [Monitoring progress on universal health coverage and the health-related Sustainable Development Goals in the WHO South-East Asia Region: 2020 update](#)
  Summary*:* The fifth Annual Report on Monitoring progress towards universal health coverage and the health-related Sustainable Development Goals in the South-East Asia Region tracks UHC and SDG progress, aligning monitoring with Thirteenth General Programme of Work indicators, and emphasizes quality health care and primary health care, particularly in the context of COVID-19.
  Published: 2020

- [Health at a Glance: Asia/Pacific 2020](#)
  Summary: The fifth Annual Report for South-East Asia monitors progress toward universal health coverage and health-related Sustainable Development Goals. It aligns monitoring with Thirteenth General Programme of Work indicators, highlighting the importance of quality health care and primary care, especially in the context of COVID-19.
  Published: 2020

- [Working towards Universal Health Coverage in East Asia and the Pacific](#)
  Summary: Countries in East Asia and the Pacific aim to achieve universal health coverage. The World Bank is assisting through results-based financing projects that enhance access to vaccines, nutrition, remote services, and NCD management in various nations, including Cambodia, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Samoa, and Papua New Guinea.
  Published: 2021

Africa

- [Primary Health Care Programme in the WHO African Region from Alma-Ata to Ouagadougou and beyond](#)
  Summary*:* The vision for primary healthcare (PHC) development in the African Region is based on Alma-Ata guidelines and prior experiences. The Alma-Ata Declaration reaffirms the importance of health for a country's development. A number of strategic documents and resolutions that place an emphasis on PHC-based health regeneration show the Region's commitment.
  Published: 2018

Europe

- [The Provision of Private Healthcare Services in European Countries: Recent Data and Lessons for Universal Health Coverage in Other Settings](#)

  Summary: Frontiers article covering the background, financing context, methods, scope and focus, data sources, patient and public involvement, results and discussion, hospitals, dentists, specialist services, primary care, pharmacy, satisfaction, their own conclusions, funding, conflict of interest and more supplementary materials and references.

  Published: 2021

Non-Official Resources on the Topic

- [From commitment to action: Action agenda on universal health coverage from the UHC movement](#)
  Summary: Prior to the pandemic, progress toward universal health coverage was lagging, and COVID-19 stressed its significance. The UHC Movement's Action Agenda provides policy suggestions for UHC and global health security and calls for immediate action.
  Published: 2023

- [Healthy systems for universal health coverage - a joint vision for healthy lives](#)
  Summary: The paper outlines a common vision for enhancing health care systems in order to achieve universal health coverage (UHC). It highlights aspects of health system performance, policy entry points, necessary actions, and guiding principles, serving as a resource for the International Health Partnership for UHC 2030 (UHC2030) and the global community.
  Published: 2017

- [Universal Health (UHC) and Primary Health Care (PHC)—A complex dynamic endeavor](#)
  Summary: UHC ensures equitable access to essential health services without financial hardship. Primary health care (PHC) is a key strategy for achieving UHC and improving population health by addressing social determinants. However, disparities persist between wealthier and less wealthy countries, making implementation challenging. Funding, bureaucracy, and political factors impact PHC (UHC) efforts.
  Published: 2022

- [Universal Health Coverage and Primary Health Care within the Covid-19 Context](#)
  Summary: Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Universal Health Coverage gains importance. Primary care clinics educate, diagnose, and maintain essential services. The theme "Health for All: Protect Everyone" underscores disease prevention and sector resilience during this global health crisis.
  Published: 2020

- [UHC 2030](#)
  Summary: The 2023 UN High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage aimed to reinvigorate global progress toward health for all. Accountability and action are essential

as progress on UHC has stalled, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting the urgency of strengthening health systems.

Published: 2023

Non-official Resources about Member States or UN Regions

Asia Pacific

- [Striving to provide universal health coverage in Kazakhstan](#)
  Summary: Kazakhstan's low public health expenditure, currently at 2% of GDP, is set to increase significantly, with government funds and a new health insurance scheme. These reforms aim to reduce out-of-pocket costs, enhance access to healthcare, and prioritize preventive care through stronger primary healthcare systems.
  Published: 2019

- [BUILDING SYSTEMS FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE IN SOUTH KOREA](#)
  Summary: This study examines South Korea's progress toward Universal Health Coverage through reforms, improved governance, and ICT-based advances, providing lessons for other nations pursuing UHC.
  Published: 2014

- [Outstanding regional political commitment for UHC in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region](#)
  Summary: An important milestone for universal health coverage (UHC) was reached on September 4, 2018, when 22 nations and territories joined the UHC2030 Global Compact.
  Published: 2018

- [The 2019 Philippine UHC Act, Pandemic Management and Implementation Implications in a Post-COVID-19 World: A Content Analysis](#)
  Summary: The 2019 Philippine Universal Health Care Act, set for implementation in 2020, faced pandemic disruptions. An analysis of the Act reveals a centralized implementation approach that might neglect crucial pandemic-inspired collaborations. A new ruling strengthens financing for local governments, potentially altering UHC integration, suggesting a need for smarter financing allocation and improved information systems.
  Published: 2022

Europe

- [Towards universal healthcare in Ireland – what can we learn from the literature?](#)

  Summary: Ireland doesn't yet have universal healthcare, despite a 2017 parliamentary report recommending a tax-funded system with universal GP and primary care, among other changes. Progress has been made, but more is needed, and the report reviews global universal healthcare lessons for Ireland.

  Published: 2023