



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN
Geneva

Statement by Pakistan at the 11th Session of NAM
Health Ministers Meeting
(Tuesday, 22 May 2018, 1215 – 1415 hours) Room XVI, PDN

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of Pakistan's Federal Minister of Health, we thank the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for its leadership of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and its efforts in organizing 11th NAM Health Ministers' Meeting. We appreciate the effectiveness with which the chair has carried forward the Movement's work. We also take this opportunity to congratulate all NAM members on the 70th Anniversary of WHO.

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan endorses the draft NAM Ministerial Declaration on "Health for all: Commit to Universal Health Coverage". NAM is the leading platform representing developing countries in multilateral health fora and has played a pivotal role in highlighting the challenges faced by developing countries. It also focuses on addressing inequities between and within states to ensure healthy lives for all with an emphasis on inclusivity. The central role of NAM for developing countries is essential in this backdrop.

Pakistan believes that Universal Health Coverage and the Sustainable Development goals are mutually inclusive. We also believe that Health and socio-economic progress are inter-related. Healthy populations are the drivers of economic development. The SDGs view health and its determinants as influencing, and being influenced by, other goals and targets of sustainable development.

Mr. Chairman,

Provision of public primary health care is a national responsibility; however, with the complex nature of health challenges in the current global world, no government can do it alone. We need to work together for the establishment of resilient, robust, coordinated health systems capable of responding efficiently to the needs of the population especially during emergencies and disasters in an effective manner.

As we discuss Universal Health Coverage, we also need to address NCDs too. The non-communicable diseases are inflicting a lot of pain and suffering on the people of the south. Therefore, we must utilise this forum to develop a collaborative network for experience and information sharing within NAM member states. We need to have concerted efforts which must focus on technical assistance, financing and capacity building to allow developing countries to achieve their social and health goals. Health system strengthening is essential to ensure Universal Health Coverage.

Mr. Chairman,

NAM can foster South-South cooperation and create connections between economic, trade sectors and the health sectors as well as technology and innovation. To elaborate assistive technologies, which are essential for the integration of populations who are at a disadvantage, are not readily available in most of our countries. However, there are member countries of NAM which have taken steps to develop hubs for manufacturing of products under assistive technology. Sharing each other's expertise and creating reliance on each other would give impetus to good health and development of NAM member states.

I also take this opportunity to request all NAM members to support our draft Resolution EB142.R6 on Assistive technologies under agenda item 12.5. We believe that no one should be left behind: be it because of the at-birth disabilities, due to harmful effects of NCDs and infectious diseases, accidents, ageing, or due to conflicts and wars.

We suggest NAM should work more closely with the WHO and other health-related specialized agencies to ensure that realization of tangible measures to promote health remains at the forefront of the global development agenda.

I thank You.
