



Saturday, 1 February 2020, series of briefings and debates
Civil society perspectives on selected global health topics

Session 1, 9.30 - 11.00 hrs

Primary Health Care and Universal Health Coverage

How to “transform vision into action”?

The last two years, with the jubilee of the Alma-Ata Declaration (2018) and the UN High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage (2019), brought Primary Health Care and health systems back to the top of the global health agenda. Now, as celebrations are over and declarations published, the EB agenda and the related documents ([EB146/5](#), [EB146/6](#) and [EB146/38 Add.1](#)) show that WHO and member states still struggle with the essentials of PHC and health equity, such as how to fully recognize and operationalize Primary Health Care as a policy guide to enlarge and transform all health systems to become really universal, comprehensive and egalitarian.

Good news is that the articulation of PHC in the DG’s Report EB146/5 goes further than the Astana Declaration: “a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to health that combines the following three components: multisectoral policy and action; empowered people and communities; and primary care and essential public health functions as the core of integrated health services. Primary health care-oriented health systems are health systems organized and operated so as to make the right to the highest attainable level of health the main goal, while maximizing equity and solidarity. They are composed of a core set of structural and functional elements that support achieving universal coverage and access to services that are acceptable to the population and that are equity enhancing.”

EB 146/5 then outlines the 14 levers of the draft operational framework “needed to translate the global commitments made in the Declaration of Astana into actions and interventions.”

Beyond the limits of proposed country categories for UHC implementation

In the proposed country categories for the UHC implementation (document [EB146/6](#)) there is a worrying absence of an equity approach to reduce the gap of access, accessibility, care quality and results among social classes, gender and races / ethnics at different territorial dimensions within countries and at the international borders.

Speakers and panellists

- David Sanders, Input at Astana PHC conference (video)
- Marta Jimenez Carrillo, People’s Health Movement
- Armando De Negri Filho, World Social Forum on Health and Social Security (video)

Moderator: Nicoletta Denticò

This session is dedicated to David Sanders (1945-2019)

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