



Leaving no one behind

The role of law in advancing Universal Health Coverage

Key messages

- Universal Health Coverage (UHC) provides a mechanism to address the global noncommunicable disease (NCD) burden.
- UHC contributes to the realisation of everybody's right to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health.
- Increasing knowledge and effective use of law is critical to advancing UHC globally. This includes strengthening the legal capacity of the health workforce and the broader workforce for health — other actors in a range of fields who can impact health and health governance. All these actors are active participants in law and regulation.
- State and non-state actors must recognise and prioritise the effective use of law in realising UHC and commit to building the necessary capacity of the health workforce and the workforce for health to do so.
- UHC has been a longstanding tenet of global health and is Target 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In September 2019, world political leaders recommitted to realising UHC by 2030 by adopting the first [Political Declaration on Universal Health Coverage](#) at the United Nations' first High-level Meeting (HLM) on Universal Health Coverage.
- The Political Declaration commits all UN Member States to expand quality health services to one billion more people by 2023 and all people by 2030. It identifies key action areas to frame the political objectives, guide implementation and accelerate action toward UHC, and some targets to track progress.
- Law, strong governance and regulatory mechanisms play a critical role in advancing UHC.
- The Political Declaration acknowledges the role of law in progressing UHC and includes commitments by Member States to promote and implement legislative and regulatory measures to advance UHC to meet the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- UN Member States will report on their efforts to advance UHC at the second United Nations High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage in 2023.