



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN
Geneva

H.E. Dr. Zafar Mirza, Minister of State, NHSRC

at the 12th Session of NAM
Health Ministers' Meeting
(Tuesday 21st May 2019, 1215-1415 hours)
Room XVI Palais de Nations

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of Pakistan's Minister of State for Health, we thank the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for its leadership of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and its efforts in organizing twelfth NAM Health Ministers' Meeting. We appreciate their efforts in carrying forward the Movement's work and attempts to build on current achievements.

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan endorses the draft NAM Ministerial Declaration on "Universal Health Coverage: Leave no one behind". The 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 inequalities between and within States to ensure healthy lives for all with an emphasis on inclusivity.

Resilient health systems are essential for the provision of Universal Health Coverage. The realization of the basic human right to health is dependent on a strong, and coordinated health system capable of responding efficiently to the needs of the population. There is a need by

NAM for enhanced cooperation and mutual assistance for strengthening national health systems to ensure Universal Health Coverage becomes a reality and all people enjoy the basic human right to health.

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan believes that Universal Health Coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals are mutually inclusive. Universal Health Coverage is a powerful strategy. It does not only assure access to quality health care services at a price affordable to all but also works to reduce poverty, enhance productivity, drives economic growth, promotes gender equality and protects populations against epidemics.

The 2030 Development Agenda is an ideal aspiration, which needs to be translated to reality through concrete, concerted efforts which must focus on technical assistance, financing and capacity building to allow developing countries to meet their obligations under these goals. We need to work together for the establishment of resilient, robust, coordinated health systems capable of responding efficiently to the needs of the population in an effective manner.

We feel that 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
