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World Health Day 2018

The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) presents his compliments to Member States and Associate Members and has the honour to announce that WHO is dedicating World Health Day 2018 to the theme “Universal health coverage: everyone, everywhere.”

World Health Day, celebrated on 7 April every year, is a unique opportunity to draw worldwide attention to the current organization-wide drive to support countries in moving towards universal health coverage.

Some countries have already made significant progress towards universal health coverage. But half the world’s population is still unable to obtain the health services they need. If countries are to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 3.8, 1 billion more people need to benefit from universal health coverage by 2023.

Experience has illustrated, time and again, that universal health coverage is achieved when political will is strong. In this 70th anniversary year, WHO is calling on world leaders to live up to the pledges they made when they agreed the SDGs in 2015 and to commit to concrete actions to advance #HealthForAll. This means ensuring that everyone, everywhere can access essential quality health services without facing financial hardship.

Access to essential quality care and financial protection not only enhances people’s health and life expectancy, it also protects countries from epidemics, reduces poverty and the risk of hunger, creates jobs, drives economic growth and enhances gender equality.

The Organization will maintain a high-profile focus on universal health coverage via a series of events through 2018, starting on World Health Day on 7 April with global and local conversations and policy dialogue about ways to achieve #HealthForAll.

Additional information about the day and resources to assist activities are available on the WHO website at www.who.int/healthforall.

The Director-General of the World Health Organization takes this opportunity to renew to Member States and Associate Members the assurance of his highest consideration and invites them to engage in World Health Day 2018 and join the movement for policy change towards universal health coverage everywhere for everyone.

GENEVA, 16 February 2018