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**Second International Conference on Primary Health Care
Towards Universal Health Coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals
Astana Kazakhstan, 25–26 October 2018**

The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) presents his compliments to Member States and has the honour to invite them to the Second International Conference on Primary Health Care on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the Declaration of Alma-Ata. The Conference will be hosted by the President of Kazakhstan, with the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Astana, Kazakhstan from 25 to 26 October 2018.

The commitment to achieve health for all remains as relevant and essential today as it was when it was first articulated in the Declaration of Alma-Ata in 1978. Ensuring people-centred care that offers universal access, social equity and financial protection with a primary health care-led approach is critical to the attainment of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and the health-related Sustainable Development Goals.

While there have been great strides toward UHC in the last four decades, the vision set forth in the Declaration of Alma-Ata has not always been translated into effective transformation of health systems. This Conference provides Member States and other stakeholders the opportunity to renew support for the values and principles of the Declaration of Alma-Ata, considering the significant changes in the social, epidemiological, and demographic landscapes as well as evidence for what works in primary health care. Health for all concerns all countries, rich and poor, and is essential for improving health, social stability, sound national economies and health security.

The Conference **aims** to strengthen primary health care as the foundation for UHC, building on lessons learned over the past four decades. On occasion of this momentous anniversary, Member States, civil society and international partners must commit to transforming this new vision into a practical reality – a reality that everyone can share, believe in, take action upon, and benefit from.

The **objectives** of the Conference are:

- To commemorate the 1978 Declaration of Alma-Ata.
- To renew the political commitment of all Member States and stakeholders to developing people-centred primary health care at the heart of the UHC movement and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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- To set the stage for the 2019 United Nations General Assembly High-level Meeting on UHC.
- To signal the need for immediate implementation of the outcome document of the Second International Conference on Primary Health Care between 2019–2030.

The Conference is expected to result in a concise **outcome document** endorsed by the participants of the Conference.

The **agenda** will include a mix of plenary and parallel sessions with expected attendance of Heads of State and Government, Ministers, leading global primary health care experts, and representatives from international organizations, development partners, civil society organizations, professional organizations, patients' organizations, think tanks and academia.

Member States are requested to nominate their ministerial representatives. In the event that the Minister is not able to attend, it is strongly encouraged that these nominations be at the highest possible level. Considering the theme of the Conference, it would be appreciated to have at least one nominee from the health sector. Nominees from other sectors, such as finance and education are also welcome. Nominations for the conference can be completed and submitted at the following link no later than 29 June 2018:

<https://extranet.who.int/dataform/147435?lang=en>

Upon receipt of nominations, WHO will issue a personalized invitation letter.

To facilitate wider participation in the Conference, and in accordance with resolution WHA50.1, special consideration will be given to delegates from countries which are classified as "least developed countries" by the United Nations. Depending on the availability of funds, every effort will be made by the organizers to cover an economy class airfare by the most direct route, as well as accommodation including breakfast for the duration of the Conference for two delegates per least developed country. Member States that wish to request travel support can do so at the dataform link provided above as soon as possible, and no later than 29 June 2018, including a copy of the letter of their Government indicating the names, affiliations, and contract details of the participants to be supported.

The participation of Member States is essential to the successful outcome of this historical event. Interpretation will be provided in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish, and Russian during the plenary sessions.

Documentation for the Second International Conference on Primary Health Care, including a conference brochure, programme structure, provisional agenda, policy brief, as well as information on the process to develop a draft outcome document, vision, and implementation plan will also be posted in due course at www.who.int/primary-health/conference-phc.

The Director-General of the World Health Organization takes this opportunity to renew to Member States the assurance of his highest consideration.

GENEVA, 19 April 2018