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25 May 2022 | 13:00- 14:30 CEST

## Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly

# STRATEGIC ROUND TABLE

**Radical reorientation of health systems towards primary health care as the foundation of universal health coverage: The best and only choice to achieve universal health coverage**

## Programme

13:00 Welcome and introduction

- Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General
- Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab, WHO Deputy Director-General

13:15 Country experiences

- Dr Christopher Tufton, Minister of Health, Jamaica
- Dr Wilhemina Jallah, Minister of Health, Liberia

13:25 Remarks from WHO and partners

- Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia Region
- Dr Feng Zhao, Practice Manager, Strategy, Operations and Global Engagement, World Bank
- Dr Atul Gawande, Assistant Administrator for Global Health, USAID

13:50 Question and answer

14:20 Closing

- Dr Carissa Etienne, Director of the Pan American Health Organization and Regional Director for the Americas, WHO

Moderator: Ms Chika Oduah

## Background

This roundtable will focus on the radical reorientation of health systems towards primary health care (PHC) as the foundation for Universal health coverage (UHC).

The unprecedented COVID pandemic global crisis has been an eye-opener to the world with millions of lives lost and major socio-economic disruptions made. It has exposed the limitations of most health systems. In response to the crisis, a WHO position paper was released in October 2021, "Building health systems resilience towards UHC and health security during COVID-19 pandemic and beyond". This paper insists on the importance of urgently and smartly investing in PHC, the essential public health functions and health systems foundations across many countries.

Building on the Declaration of Astana on PHC and the political declaration on UHC, WHO created the Special Programme on PHC in 2020. Incorporating the UHC-Partnership, the special programme is a key instrument to support countries reorient their health systems toward PHC.

In this roundtable, we will hear from the WHO Director-General, Deputy Director-General, and Regional Directors for South-East Asia and the Americas on the reasons why a radical reorientation of Health Systems toward PHC is crucial. We will hear first-hand reflections from two countries on their experiences in PHC and health systems. And we will learn from major International Financial Institutions, bilateral donors and NGOs about how they can collectively support countries in reorienting their health systems towards PHC.