

EB152 statement on universal health coverage

1 February 2023 – COVID-19 has highlighted the link between UHC and global health security and brought broad recognition that chronic conditions and pandemics constitute a “perfect storm” that requires building strong and resilient health systems and increasing health equity, all of which requires robust domestic financing.

UHC is the primary responsibility of governments. It is clear that no single government, organization, or sector can achieve UHC on its own, particularly when countries are facing an unparalleled combination of external shocks. Integrating lessons from recent crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, will bolster the UHC agenda. We support governments to prioritize prevention, treatment, and care in essential benefits packages for NCDs and communicable diseases such as HIV, with primary healthcare being the foundation of UHC. The innovative pharmaceutical industry stands with the global health community to support countries in accelerating efforts to achieve UHC.