

STATEMENT

Individual statement at WHA76 on agenda items 13.1 and 13.2

13.1: Reorienting health systems to primary health care as a resilient foundation for universal health coverage and preparations for a high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on universal health coverage

13.2: Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, and mental health

26 MAY 2023, GENEVA – COVID-19 has been a wake-up call in showing that UHC is fundamental to global health security, economic security, and health equity. The “perfect storm” that chronic conditions and pandemics create underscores the need for strong and resilient health systems.

Clearly, no single government, organization, or sector can achieve UHC on its own, particularly when countries are facing an unparalleled combination of external shocks. As part of the UHC2030 Private Sector Constituency, we support the Action Agenda and its rallying calls to governments. Prevention, treatment, diagnosis, and care must be prioritized 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 their efforts to achieve UHC.