

WHO Southeast Asia Regional Committee 79th Session (SEA RC79)

Agenda item 8.1 Annual report on monitoring progress on UHC and health-related SDGs

Documents [SEA/RC79/8](#)

Statement

FDI World Dental Federation and the International Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (IADR), representing over one million dentists and more than 10,000 researchers worldwide, welcome the annual report on monitoring progress on UHC and health-related SDGs in the SEA Region. The increase in the UHC Service Coverage Index and the positive trend in reducing financial hardship demonstrate continued regional progress towards UHC.

At the same time, persistent challenges remain, including noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) as the Region's most critical service coverage gap, health workforce shortages, and inequities in access to quality health services. We therefore welcome the High-Level Preparatory Meeting's recommendations to strengthen primary health care (PHC), particularly for NCD prevention and management; enhance sustainable health financing and financial protection; and strengthen health information systems and workforce capacity.

These priorities align closely with the Bangkok Declaration, *No Health Without Oral Health*, which calls for the inclusion of oral health targets within the renewed Global Monitoring Framework for NCDs, including a target that, by 2030, 80% of the global population should be entitled to essential oral healthcare services as part of UHC.

To achieve UHC for all by 2030, we call on Member States to:

- Integrate oral health priorities into preparations for the 2027 United Nations High-Level Meeting on UHC and discussions on the post-2030 health agenda.
- Integrate oral health into national NCD strategies and UHC benefit packages.
- Include a basic package of essential oral health services within PHC, supported by adequate financing, workforce capacity, and referral pathways.
- Include oral health in national health information systems, surveillance mechanisms, and accountability frameworks.

- Support national research to assess progress towards UHC for oral health for all and generate evidence on effective delivery, prevention, and financing models.

FDI and IADR stand ready to support governments and partners in advancing these efforts.

298 words