

# Health Professional Meeting (H20) 2019

Road to Universal Health Coverage

June 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Hilton Tokyo Odaiba, Tokyo

## Memorandum of Tokyo

on

### Universal Health Coverage and the Medical Profession

At the Health Professional Meeting (H20) 2019 in Tokyo, the World Medical Association and the Japan Medical Association welcome the efforts by the World Health Organization, national governments, intergovernmental and United Nations agencies as well as other organizations to foster the development of Health Care Systems providing Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

We notice that UHC means "that all people and communities can use the promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services they need, of sufficient quality to be effective, while also ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the user to financial hardship." (WHO definition of UHC)

UHC is a tool to overcome inequities in the health systems themselves.

UHC is for people, but also by people.

Human resources for health care in many countries are scarce. We urge all in responsible positions to invest in the education and retention of health professionals to make UHC possible.

This must include quality education, opportunities for continuing professional development and most important safe, dignifying and attractive working and living conditions for those who provide health care to their communities and patients.

The WMA encourages physicians and their associations in all parts of this world to play a profound role in the advocacy for and the realization of UHC.

From the side of the medical profession, there should be no hesitancy in embracing the concept of UHC, including a strong engagement for the development of quality primary care as the core part of a comprehensive health system.

We welcome the recent attention that G20 Finance Ministers<sup>1</sup> give to the development of UHC as a contribution "to human capital development, sustainable and inclusive growth and development, and prevention, detection and response to health emergencies, such as pandemics and anti-microbial resistance, in developing countries."

We express our expectation to the G20 Summit that this inspires the way to improved and sustainable investments in health care system not only in G20 countries but also and most importantly in other economies, which still invest insufficiently in their health care systems, irrespective of the reasons for such shortfalls.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international\\_policy/convention/g20/communique.htm](https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international_policy/convention/g20/communique.htm)  
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