

**Statement of the APEC Health Working Group
to the United Nations General Assembly High Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage
2023**

We, the APEC economies, welcome the **United Nations General Assembly High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage 2023** in which collective global efforts at the highest political level will be intensified to accelerate progress towards achieving universal health coverage (UHC) by 2030, to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all through the life course, and building a healthier world for all.

Health is both a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainable economic development, and thus UHC is fundamental not only for human health and well-being of all people, but also for sustainable economic growth, inclusive social development, and poverty reduction, integral to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We acknowledge the existing achievements of UHC and priorities for future health strategies and policy needs. We also reaffirm the values of inclusive, people-centered health care and services.

We also note the interdependence between health and the economy in achieving UHC, illustrated by the unprecedented impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on health and the economy at all levels. We reaffirm our efforts in strengthening health systems and in enhancing preparedness and response to public health emergencies and disasters, including for the prevention and control of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases that are responsive to the unique needs of all people.

We have placed efforts in promoting and supporting the implementation of UHC and addressing health issues that threaten economic, trade, security, and social development. We will continue our efforts to improve digital solutions and access to health services among all, including those in vulnerable situations, and strengthen health systems with a view to achieving UHC.

We reaffirm our commitment to achieve UHC through: the primary role and responsibility of governments; a multisectoral approach involving the private sector and civil society in solutions; promoting, inclusive, people-centered, community-based, quality, responsive, and efficient primary health care delivery; increasing health investments, including health and social innovation and optimizing the allocation and utilization of health funds; improving equitable access to health services and health insurance including those in vulnerable situations; empowering individuals, families and communities to embrace UHC; and promoting immunization and preventative health care services as well as the continuum of care while protecting households' financial risk due to health expenses.

We also reaffirm that “there is no wealth without health”, and welcome commitments from economies to improve health and well-being, aiming to promote trade, inclusive growth and development in the APEC region and beyond to increase their investment and ensure sufficient financial resources in health security and health system strengthening to better prepare for and mitigate future health threats and ultimately to achieve UHC by 2030.

We are supportive of pragmatic collaboration among economies and other stakeholders to address issues at the nexus of health and the economy and to scale up the global efforts to build a healthier world for all, promoting access, and innovation in efforts to reach UHC and leaving no one behind.
