



The republic of Sudan



Universal Health Coverage Declaration January 2017

1. We the representatives of different government sectors at federal and states levels, development partners, civil society organizations, private sector, academia, media, and the community met in Khartoum from 22nd to 24th January 2017 with the objective of "bringing together key stakeholders and partners to build common and deep understanding of health sector reform policies to achieve universal health coverage" in Sudan.
2. **RE-AFFIRMING** that health is a fundamental human right and the responsibility of the government of Sudan in assuring the health of its people and that equity in health is an expression of social justice;
3. **AWARE** of the pivotal role of a healthy population as a driver for sustainable, equitable and inclusive economic growth and national development;
4. **RECOGNIZING** that Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is a key instrument to enhancing health, social cohesion and sustainable human and economic development all together. UHC is very crucial for ensuring an integrated, high quality, people centered, and universally accessible healthcare services for all Sudanese without suffering financial hardship;
5. **RE-AFFIRMING** that different governmental sectors, communities, private sector and CSOs have vital and crucial roles and responsibilities in achieving health sector vision of "A nation with healthy individuals, families and communities where the health needs of the poor, underserved, disadvantaged and vulnerable populations receive due attention and that health is in all policies of the State";
6. **RECOGNIZING** that the key challenges for achieving UHC are related to the sub-optimal health system characterized by inadequate financial protection for the poor, shortage and mal-distribution of human resources for health, uneven quality of health care services, challenges in the provision of health commodities, weak capacities of the decentralized health systems, poor coordination, domination of the

biomedical approach, and weak referral system and the uneven utilization of health services;

7. **APPRECIATING** the support of all partners and stakeholders in the Sudan health sector including Federal, state and local governments, civil society organizations, private sector, academia, media, communities and multilateral and bilateral organizations;

WE HERBY STRONGLY COMMITTED TO SUPPORT AND ENHANCE THE TRANSFORMATION OF HEALTH SECTOR AT ALL LEVELS (FEDERAL, STATES AND LOCALITIES) TO SIGNIFICANTLY MAKE PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE IN SUDAN BY:

8. **COMMITTING** to implementing recommendations of the Universal Health Coverage Conference held in Khartoum in January 2017;
9. **COMITTING**to health and health equity as a political priority by adopting the principles of Health in All Policies and taking action on the social determinants of health;
10. **ENSURING** effective structures, processes and resources that enable implementation of the Health in All Policies approach across governmental sectors at all levels (Federal, States and Localities);
11. **STRENGTHEN** the capacities of Ministries of Health (at federal and state levels) to engage other sectors of government through leadership, partnership, advocacy and mediation to enable the implementation of Health in All Policies and provide evidence on the determinants of health and inequity and on effective responses to improve health outcomes;
12. **ENGAGE** all stakeholders including communities, youth, women and civil society in the development, implementation and monitoring of Health in All Policies, and in building health literacy in the population;
13. **COMITTING** to increase budgetary allocation to health at Federal, state and local Government to 15% of the annual budget (Abuja target)with a proportion earmarked for UHC priority interventions;
14. **ESTABLISHING** Universal Health Coverage special fund and deploying alternative, innovative and sustainable sources of funding for Universal Health Coverage;
15. **STRENGTHENING** and expanding financial risk protection mechanisms for the poor and vulnerable groups as part of the broader social protection efforts in the country and supporting the National Health Insurance vision of 2020;

16. **DEFINING** a standard benefit package of essential health services that address priority health care needs of the Sudanese;
17. **DELIVERING** the standard benefit package through ensuring adequate physical infrastructure, skilled human resource, medicines and other life-saving commodities and equitable distribution of the quality health services;
18. **PROVIDING** policy and regulatory instruments for the institutionalization of systems and mechanisms that ensure quality of care and satisfaction for consumers of health care services that include improving the quality and efficiency of hospital services;
19. **ESTABLISHING** an Independent Health Quality and Accreditation Commission to ensure standards and compliance;
20. **DELIBERATELY** building an organized referral system that guarantees each citizen access to functional primary health care facility, which shall be the first point of contact in the national health system;
21. **ENSURING** an appropriate and effective implementation arrangements towards the realization of the recommendations of the Universal Health Coverage Conference 2017, focusing on:
 - 21.1 **CONSTITUTING** and inaugurating appropriate structures that will initiate appropriate plans and actions and monitor and evaluate progress of the UHC efforts in Sudan;
 - 21.2 **ENHANCING** the accountability and transparency mechanisms and regularly informing the public and their representatives on the progress towards achieving the UHC in Sudan;
22. **BUILDING** on existing and new multi-sectoral partnership for coordinated UHC efforts for Sudan led by Government and supported by Development Partners, CSOs, Private Sector and other stakeholders;
23. **ENDORISING** the aforementioned this, on 24th of January, 2017.