



**EXECUTIVE BOARD EB144/17  
Agenda item 11.5**

**Universal health coverage:  
Preparation for the high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on  
universal health coverage**

**STATEMENT BY THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF NEPHROLOGY**

Honorable chair, distinguished delegates,

We welcome the WHO current efforts to promote UHC, in preparation for the HLM of September 2019.

Kidney diseases are major contributors to the high morbidity and mortality attributable to non-transmissible conditions including cardiovascular disease, diabetes and hypertension; endemic infections such as HIV, malaria, TB, diarrheal diseases and hepatitis; social and economic factors such as poverty and discrimination; and environmental factors driven by climate change. In the absence of UHC, more patients with kidney disease experience catastrophic health expenditure in LMIC compared to any other health condition. Successful management of kidney health requires a robust society where inequity is minimized across all sectors - from prevention to tertiary care and effectiveness is maximized through integrated care.

In order to successfully achieve UHC, the International Society of Nephrology calls on member states to prioritise the following key measures:

1. **Promote the development of innovative public and/or private funding strategies** and increase efforts to deliver affordable and equitable treatments.
2. **Develop and strengthen comprehensive integrated healthcare** services in a continuum of care spanning from health promotion, education and prevention, to screening, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care, and implementation of management programs that address co-morbidities.
3. **Focus on disease prevention utilizing population-based approaches** and implementation of the WHO Best Buys and screening of at-risk populations including for kidney disease.
4. **Implement ‘whole of government, whole of society health** in all policy approaches, such as multisectoral actions involving elaboration of high-level policies across environmental, agriculture, finance, trade, transport, urban planning, education, and sport government departments

Thank you