



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

**Universal health coverage (UHC)  
Primary health care towards universal health coverage**

**STATEMENT BY THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF NEPHROLOGY**

Honorable chair, distinguished delegates,

We welcome the WHO Report's emphasis on primary health care (PHC) as a key foundation to successfully achieving UHC. PHC has been shown to increase efficiency by improving access to prevention and health education, providing early diagnosis and treatment for many conditions, and ensuring people-centered care that focuses on the needs of the whole person, increases the overall health of the community by bringing essential healthcare to peoples' doorsteps and reduces the need for expensive hospital care.

In this context, kidney diseases can be prevented by timely and appropriate management of risk factors, and their progression can be or delayed through early diagnosis and affordable & equitable access to quality therapy and follow up. Despite strong evidence of the effectiveness of these measures, most people who can benefit from such interventions do not get it. Access to primary care interventions remains highly inequitable within and across countries.

We thus call on member states to:

- Meet people's health needs through **comprehensive and integrated health service delivery** throughout the life course by providing quality primary care which includes screening of at-risk populations, universal access to essential diagnostics, increased use of generics, availability of affordable basic technologies & essential medicines, creating a well trained and resourced healthcare workforce and developing equitable financing mechanisms.
- Ensure that primary care interventions address the growing burden of **multiple co-morbidities**
- **Empower individuals, families and communities** by promoting a people-centered rather than disease-centered approach to care delivery.

Thank you