

**ISN Statement at the 73rd session of the WHO Regional Committee
for the Western Pacific on Agenda Item 14:
Reaching the unreached**

Honourable chair, distinguished delegates,

The International Society of Nephrology welcomes the draft Regional Framework for Reaching the Unreached in the Western Pacific (2022–2030), which recognizes the fundamental role of primary health care (PHC) in progressing toward UHC and supporting the realization of the highest attainable standard of health for all.

ISN applauds the actions taken and progress made in the region, in particular the continued implementation of the WHO PEN package of Essential NCD Interventions. Whilst the PEN package lists prevention of onset and delay in progression of chronic kidney disease (CKD) as an essential intervention for primary care, we regret that the progress as regards CKD in the region has been insufficient.

For example, in the Philippines, we have seen an exponential rise in the number of CKD patients undergoing Renal Replacement Therapy¹. The cost of dialysis is around 692 USD. Based on the Philippine Statistics Authority, a minimum wage earner receives between US\$169.99 to US\$287.24 a month. The monthly pay cannot cover dialysis expenses and maintenance medicines which leads to catastrophic health expenditure and/or death. With access to quality PHC and basic medications, CKD can be prevented or onset of dialysis significantly delayed.

Equitable access to quality PHC, health promotion, and a fit-for-purpose health workforce are essential principles that need to be followed to ensure that no one and no disease is left behind.

Hence, we call upon Member States and the WHO to:

- Ensure that everyone has access to people-centered, integrated, comprehensive promotive, protective, preventive, curative, rehabilitative, and palliative care
- Consult people living with NCDs and their caregivers to ensure that their experiences and perspectives are heard and included in the development and strengthening of national PHC systems
- Adopt the draft Regional Framework to translate global commitments into concrete actions to ensure equitable access to PHC and achieve UHC.

Thank you.

¹ Based on the Philippine Renal Disease Registry, the CKD-D population has been increasing by 12-15% per year.