



**EXECUTIVE BOARD EB146/5**  
**Agenda item 6**

**Draft operational framework**  
**Primary health care: transforming vision into action**

**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.

In the specific context of kidney diseases, over 2 million people die every year due to lack of access to care. With 850.000.000 people affected worldwide, kidney disease is projected to become the 5th most common cause of YLL globally by 2040. Dialysis and transplantation consume a disproportionate 2–3% of the annual health-care budget in high-income countries, and induces catastrophic expenditure in over 90% of patients in lower income settings.

Kidney diseases, however, can be prevented by timely and appropriate management of risk factors, and their progression can be 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 them and 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