



# DECLARATION BY DELEGATES FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CONFERENCE



## TOWARDS UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE – STRENGTHENING PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

EAST LONDON, BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY,  
EASTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA, 15 AND 16 NOVEMBER 2023

We, the representatives of the government of South Africa; organised labour; Non-governmental organisations (NGOs); Community-based Organisations; broader civil society; academic institutions; research organisations; private health sector; and our social and development partners, gathered at the South African Primary Health Care Conference embracing the theme: Towards Universal Health Coverage - Strengthening Primary Health Care in East London, on 15 and 16 November 2023, reaffirming the commitments expressed in the Declaration of Alma-Ata of 1978, the Declaration Astana of 2018, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and our **National Development Plan 2030**, in the pursuit of Health for All, hereby make the following commitments:

### Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

We reaffirm our commitment to attain Universal Health Coverage (UHC) recognising the right for all people to access quality health services where and when required without financial hardships.

We will, within South Africa's District Health System and within available resources, prepare for the implementation of the National Health Insurance (NHI), which is South Africa's chosen future funding mechanism to support the achievement of UHC.

We will pursue the Primary Health Care (PHC) approach as the foundation and heartbeat of a system for provision of comprehensive health services.

We will strive to mobilise resources to ensure that the District Health System Policy Framework and Strategy 2024-2029 is adequately financed and implemented.

### Collaboration with partners on Social Determinants of Health

We believe that addressing Social Determinants of Health (SDH) is crucial for achieving better health outcomes, and will strengthen relations within government, across sectors and with government's social partners.

We will strive to strengthen the district health planning process in alignment with the multisectoral District Development Model (DDM) for integrated, comprehensive and coordinated plans.

We will continue to strengthen our public health capacity for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response and improve our surveillance systems.

### Service Delivery Platform

We commit ourselves to improve the overall quality of care delivered by the national health system moving towards UHC.

We will strengthen our referral system for users of health services to be referred from PHC level to the most suitable level of care in line with the package of service to receive optimal care, and access the appropriate specialist services, in accordance with their health needs.

We will attend to and manage, appropriately, persons who are down referred to PHC facilities.

We will continue to improve the service delivery platform comprising Ward Based Primary Health Care Outreach Teams (WBPHCOTs), Integrated School Health Teams (ISHTs), and Environmental and Port Health services, mobile and fixed Clinics, Community Health- and Day Centers (CHCs, CDCs) and District Hospitals, amongst others, through the Ideal Health Facility Realisation and Maintenance Programme (ICRM) in South Africa. District Clinical Specialist Teams (DCSTs) will continue to provide clinical governance, support and guidance to health facilities.

We recognize communities as our central and crucial partners in health care. We will therefore continuously strive for enhanced partnership and collaboration with communities in the development and implementation of human rights orientated health policies and services.

We will continue to mobilise resources to build and maintain facilities with appropriately trained, qualified and skilled Human Resources for Health, who are responsive to health needs of communities, working in a conducive environment supported by good infrastructure, information technology infrastructure and all essential medical equipment and support systems in our facilities.

We will continue to strive for harmonization and management of data systems to enable contextual planning and astute use of resources.

We will strive for equity in the distribution of all health resources, in accordance with the health needs of communities.

We voluntarily and collectively endorse this declaration of the South African National Primary Health Care Conference, held on 15 and 16 November 2023, in Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa.