

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC

BUREAU REGIONAL DU PACIFIQUE OCCIDENTAL

United Nations Avenue, P.O. Box 2932, 1000 Manila, Philippines

In reply please refer to:
Prière de rappeler la référence:

Mr Kawaldip Sehmi
Chief Executive Officer
International Alliance of
Patients' Organization (IAPO)
49-51 East Road
London, NI 6AH
United Kingdom

№21954

Dear Mr Sehmi,

With reference to your letter of 20 November, I am writing to support Patient Solidarity Day on 5 December.

The Constitution of the World Health Organization was the first international instrument to enshrine the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health as a fundamental right of every human being. The WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific supports Member States in building capacity to design and implement health policies and programmes that enhance health equity and integrate pro-poor, gender-responsive, human rights-based approaches.

Specifically, the sixty-sixth session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific endorsed *Universal Health Coverage: Moving Towards Better Health*, which integrates a patient-centred and rights-based approach across five health system attributes and 15 action domains for countries to consider in working towards achieving universal health coverage. The document takes a whole-of-system, multisectoral approach, recognizing different country pathways and the importance of monitoring progress towards UHC to inform policy. An essential element of the Sustainable Development Goals, UHC calls for all people to have access to quality health services without facing undue financial burden. These messages will also be disseminated for Human Rights Day on 10 December and UHC day on 12 December 2015.

As always, WHO stands ready to collaborate with Member States and other partners to accelerate progress towards UHC in the Western Pacific Region.

Yours sincerely,



Shin Young-soo, MD, Ph.D.
Regional Director