



IAPO Intervention: Health 2020 (Item 5a)
64th Session of the World Health Organization's Regional Committee for Europe

The International Alliance of Patients' Organizations (IAPO) is an alliance of patient groups that represents the interests of patients worldwide. We have almost 250 member organizations based in more than 65 countries covering 60 different diseases and conditions, and representing an estimated 365 million patients.

IAPO welcomes the progress on the Regional Committee's six overarching targets for Health 2020, particularly to provide universal health coverage in Europe and to link targets with equity and empowering patients for patient-centred care. We commend the political commitment of Member States to universal health coverage however more needs to be done to follow-through on this commitment, and this need is growing more pressing as we consider post-2015 development goals. We know from our member organizations that many experience a lack of commitment and inadequate funding for universal health coverage in their home countries. Members report that healthcare is often unaffordable for patients and their families and there are disparities in access to healthcare.

IAPO is working with its members and partners to develop principles of universal health coverage from a patient perspective. We believe these principles need to be the core components of health systems and we call on all governments and delegates attending the WHO Regional Committee to consider these principles in the context of the agenda items under consideration and the importance of these fundamental principles to ensure affordable, high quality and equitable access for all their citizens.

The principles governing universal access to health coverage are based on:

- 1. Accessibility**
- 2. Patient-centredness and equity**
- 3. Choice and empowerment**
- 4. Quality**
- 5. Partnership and collaboration**
- 6. Sustainability and value**
- 7. Accountability and transparency**

We ask delegates to remember as we move forward in developing and delivering Health 2020 goals, that all policies, programs, and strategies must be based on the fundamental right to patient-centred healthcare as outlined in IAPO's Declaration on Patient-Centred Healthcare.

Thank you for your attention.