Meeting: Global Conference on Primary Health Care

Honourable Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Alliance for Health Promotion, an alliance of international NGOs involved in health promotion with an aim to empower communities and individuals to gain ownership over their own well-being and enjoyment of a healthy life.

We support the aim of the Global Conference on Primary Health Care to renew political commitment to place primary health care at the heart of achieving universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Agenda and the original principles of the 1978 Declaration.

Communities and individuals are contributing pillars to the success of Universal Health Coverage. The Mission Statement of the Alliance is to empower and involve communities to work on measures to improve health through health promotions. Our start was after the Jakarta conference on Health Promotion in 1997 to help bring international declarations to the grassroots level.

We, the Alliance and our member societies accept the WHO’s invitation to the global health community to work with the WHO in order to optimize the efforts to meet these aims. Health care resources can be a barrier to achieving Universal Health Coverage and the Sustainable Development goals. There is strong evidence that partnerships with nongovernmental organizations help to define cost-effective measures to promote healthy living and new care models. As such, we are keen to work with you and to share our expertise to further increase the impact of the implementation of the WHO General Plan of Work 13 and especially the universal health coverage priority.

Universal Health Coverage has a very wide definition and can be interpreted differently depending on the needs of the community being served. Partnership with and engagement of community leaders, community organizations and grassroots groups will ensure that health is understood by those who need it most. Empowerment of women, early childhood health and addressing mental health are all essential to universal health coverage.

We encourage the WHO and UNICEF to look at different models to deliver health care to those who need it most. For example health co-operatives are very effective in many regions as they prioritize the needs of a community.

We would like to highlight that financial efficiency and human resource education and support are both required for achievement of these aims.

We support the need for healthy living starting before birth, supporting healthy pregnancies, nurturing early childhood development through to nurturing and
supportive senior care through to dignity in death. Further we support healthy living with healthy mental health and well being throughout one’s live. Thank you.