



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF PSORIASIS ASSOCIATIONS

Report from the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly and related events – New York, 22-25 September 2019

The main event related to IFPA's scope of work during the week of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly was the first high-level meeting on universal health coverage (UHC), that took place at the UN headquarters on September 23. IFPA co-hosted a side-event at the margins of the high-level meeting on September 24 and participated to other collateral meetings and side-event the rest of the days.

The **high-level meeting on UHC** opened with statements affirming the importance of primary care, the effects of pollution on health and the importance of other non-health

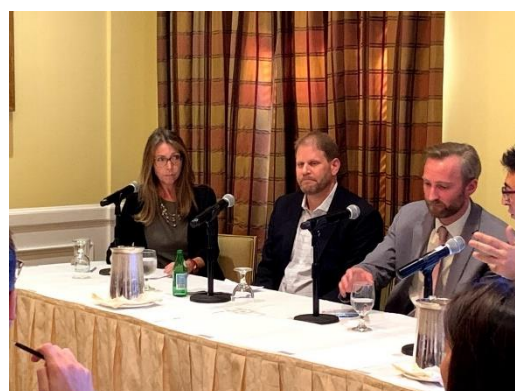


related services to achieve health for all. Dr Tedros, WHO Director-General, mentioned that many countries use too much money to finance hospital care instead of primary care and disease prevention: “we must make a crucial shift and focus on protecting health rather than treating diseases”. He added that more than 80% of conditions can be addressed at the primary care level, so he asked the UN member states to relocate resources to primary care. The political

declaration, previously negotiated by UN member states under the coordination of the governments of Georgia and Thailand, was adopted by acclamation during the opening segment of the high-level meeting. During the subsequent sessions of the high-level meeting, the UN member states delivered statements highlighting the progress made in their countries to achieve UHC, and several of those statements explicitly mentioned non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The constitution of a solidarity fund for supporting those countries with limited resources to achieve UHC, taxation of the richest and corruption elimination efforts were proposed as ways to finance health systems.

Many side-events were organized at the margins of the UN General Assembly. IFPA and the Global Psoriasis Coalition co-organized a **side-event on health workforce and psoriasis care** entitled “*Envisioning a Health Workforce for the Future: Optimizing NCD Care & Management*”, together with the NCD Alliance.

The side-event addressed the issue of the lack of health workers worldwide, the need of a patient-centered approach to care and the coordination between primary and specialistic care for NCDs, taking psoriasis as an example of complex non-communicable disease requiring coordinated care at the specialist and primary care levels. Two reports were launched during the side-event:



“*Beyond Gatekeeping: Effective Primary Care Support in the Management of Psoriasis & Psoriatic Arthritis*” by the Global Psoriasis Coalition and “*Protecting Populations, Preserving Futures: Optimizing the Health Workforce to Combat NCDs and Achieve UHC*” by the NCD Alliance.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF PSORIASIS ASSOCIATIONS

The importance of a patient-centered care was highlighted in other side-events attended by IFPA representatives. At the side-event on multi-morbidities organized by



the Coalition for Circulatory Health, it was noted that there is the need for more coordination and task sharing between health workers, but power dynamics, cultural and regulatory barriers still impede this process. The event highlighted the need of including patients at the table when decisions are made, and the importance of a good doctor-patient relation to effectively manage diseases.

People living with chronic conditions were invited by the Global Health Council to talk about UHC and their personal experience in a side-event entitled “*Turning the tables: patient perspectives on UHC*”. An interesting aspect discussed was the importance of communicating personal stories and data to the broader audience and to policymakers. It is easy to think of the data and forget the stories of the people living with a disease, but the opposite is also true. The conclusion was that it is important to put a personal story in the broader political context and when talking about data.

Finally, IFPA, as member of the Civil Society Engagement Mechanism for UHC2030 (CSEM), participated to a post- high-level meeting strategy session to discuss the next steps for civil society on the road to UHC. The meeting organizers summarized the strengths and weaknesses of the approved political declaration on UHC and noted that the work on UHC at the international level is now over: it is now up to the countries to formulate concrete target and commitments for achieving UHC. What we can do as international organizations is to support the work of the national organizations and their advocacy efforts.



IFPA engagement

IFPA and the Global Psoriasis Coalition co-hosted a side-event entitled “*Envisioning a Health Workforce for the Future: Optimizing NCD Care & Management*” together with the NCD Alliance. More than 60 people participated to the side-event, where Kathleen Gallant (IFPA) and Steven Biskhoff (National Psoriasis Foundation) highlighted the challenges of living with psoriasis and navigating the complexity of the health system. During the side-event, a white paper on primary care and psoriasis was launched. The white paper is available on globalpsoriasiscoalition.org in the section *Our position – Policy resources*.