

UHC High-Level Forum 2025

Date: December 6th. 2025

Venue: Akasaka Intercity Conference Center

Agenda

09:20 – 10:45

Opening Ceremony: Official launch of the UHC Knowledge Hub and UHC High-Level Forum

Moderator: Ms. Anita Erskine

1. Overall frame for this session

This Opening Ceremony offers a clear overview of why leaders have gathered in Tokyo and what this Forum aims to achieve.

It introduces new global evidence on UHC, highlights the need for stronger partnerships in a rapidly changing world, and marks the official launch of the UHC Knowledge Hub — a joint initiative of the Government of Japan, the World Bank Group, and WHO.

The ceremony is also livestreamed globally through World Bank Live.

2. Objectives

- i. Present the leadership and key announcements of the Forum's co-hosts
- ii. Highlight practical pathways for UHC reform and reaffirm country ownership
- iii. Share new evidence from the Global Monitoring Report (GMR)
- iv. Launch the UHC Knowledge Hub to support policymakers through knowledge sharing and capacity building

3. Agenda and speakers

Agenda	Speaker
Photo session	● Welcomed ministers and co-hosts
Opening	● Ms. Anita Erskine
Keynote speech from Prime Minister, Ms. Sanae Takaichi	● Ms. Sanae Takaichi (Prime Minister, Japan)
UHC Knowledge Hub Signing Ceremony	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Ajay Banga (President, World Bank Group) ● Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (Director-General, WHO) ● Ms. Satsuki Katayama (Minister of Finance, Japan) ● Mr. Kenichiro Ueno (Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan)

<p>Co-host discussion and statements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>In this opening segment, Forum co-hosts introduce why strengthened collaboration between health and finance leaders is essential for advancing UHC and set the tone for the day.</i> ● <i>Participants will hear global perspectives on why investment in equitable health systems matters now more than ever, as well as insights on how reform, innovation, and partnership are shaping the next chapter of UHC.</i> ● <i>This segment also highlights how new national commitments and global initiatives are coming together to accelerate progress.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Ajay Banga (President, World Bank Group) ● Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (Director-General, WHO) ● Ms. Satsuki Katayama (Minister of Finance, Japan) ● Mr. Kenichiro Ueno (Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan)
<p>GMR Findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>The World Bank and WHO will present key findings from the Global Monitoring Report (GMR), providing an overview of global progress and remaining gaps in UHC.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Kalipso Chalkidou (Director, Department of Performance, Financing and Delivery, WHO) ● Dr. Ellen Van de Poel (Senior Health Economist, World Bank Group)
<p>Spotlight Conversation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>In this segment, ministers from first cohort countries participating in the UHC Knowledge Hub will share their key commitments and reflections on advancing UHC. The moderator will guide a dynamic, conversational exchange that highlights national priorities, evolving partnerships, and the importance of collaboration between health and finance leaders.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Mekdes Daba Feyssa (Minister of Health, Ethiopia) ● Dr. Budi Gunadi Sadikin (Minister of Health, Indonesia) ● Dr. Rania Al-Mashat (Minister of Planning, Economic Development & International Cooperation, Egypt)
<p>Closing Reflections</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prof. Keizo Takemi

10:45 – 12:40

Session 1: Partners Unite!

(Moderator: Ms. Anita Erskine)

1. Overall frame for this session

This first session highlights major new commitments from countries and global partners. It brings together key stakeholders to share practical lessons and show how investing in health drives human capital development, economic growth, and job creation. The session combines short dialogues with the announcement of new country compacts and partner commitments, offering a clear picture of how collaboration is accelerating UHC progress.

2. Objectives

- i. Provide a platform for countries and partners to announce their new UHC Compacts and share practical learning.
- ii. Highlight the political momentum and partner alignment that are driving reforms, investments, and accountability.

3. Agenda and speakers

Agenda	Speaker
Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Anita Erskine
<p>Dialogue 1: Announcing Country Compacts and Partner Commitments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The first dialogue brings together ministers and major global partners to share the reforms they are committing to and how these will advance UHC. Ministers outline their priority investments and expected results, while partners explain how their collaborative approaches and use of Compacts will support countries' ambitions. The segment also highlights how governments plan to implement these reforms, including new approaches and innovations to accelerate progress.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prof. Muhammad Ali Pate (Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Nigeria) Dr Austin Demby (Minister of Health, Sierra Leone) Dr. Senait Fisseha (Vice President of International Programs, Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation) Mr. Peter Sands (Executive Director, The Global Fund)
<p>Dialogue 2: Deepening Country Compacts and Partner Commitments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The second dialogue focuses on how countries are strengthening health financing and mobilizing new types of resources to advance UHC. Ministers and representatives will discuss the reforms they are prioritizing and the importance of close collaboration between health and finance ministries. Partners will outline how their support and use of Compacts align with these national priorities.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Teodoro Herbosa (Secretary of Health, Philippines) Mr. Mohammed Yisr Barnieh (Minister of Finance, Syria) Mr. Eduardo Clark Garcia Dobarganes (Undersecretary for Sectoral Integration and Coordination of Medical Care)

	<p>Services, Ministry of Health, Mexico)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Sania Nishtar (CEO, Gavi) ● Mr. Ankur Vora (Chief Strategy Officer, Gates Foundation)
<p>Compact and Commitment Circle #1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>This segment invites ministers to present their new UHC Compacts, outlining the key reforms they are prioritizing—such as health financing, workforce strengthening, and digital health—along with domestic funding commitments and governance measures to ensure accountability. They will also share the specific areas where partner support is needed. Apollo then responds, highlighting the role of the private sector in expanding access and the conditions needed to make that contribution meaningful. African Development Bank discusses the role of development banks in financing health.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Ratu Atonio Rabici Lalabalavu (Minister of Health and Medical Service, Fiji) ● Dr. Elijah Julaki Muchima (Minister of Health, Zambia) ● Mr. Amine Tehraoui (Minister of Health and Social Protection, Morocco) ● Dr. Preetha Reddy (Executive Vice Chairperson, Apollo Hospitals) ● Dr. Osamu Kawanishi (Director of the Asia External Representation Office, African Development Bank)
<p>Compact and Commitment Circle #2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>In this segment, ministers present their UHC Compacts, outlining priority reforms, domestic funding commitments, and governance measures to ensure accountability, as well as areas where partner support is needed. The UK highlights how global resources can be better aligned with country priorities and why Compacts are a key tool for unlocking greater impact. WACI Health brings a civil society perspective, emphasizing the importance of keeping equity at the center of UHC and sustaining political attention on health for all. Asian Development Bank discusses the role of development banks in financing health. These perspectives illustrate how governments, partners, and civil society can work together to accelerate progress.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Musaab Nazzal al-Ali (Minister of Health, Syria) ● Mr. Otabek Fazilkarimov (Deputy Minister of Economy and Finance, Uzbekistan) ● Ms. Rosemary Mburu (Executive Director, WACI Health) ● Amb. Julia Longbottom (British Ambassador to Japan, UK) ● Dr. Eduardo Pedria Banzon (Director, Health, Asian Development Bank)
Closing Remarks	Mr. Hirobumi Niki (State Minister, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan)
<p>14:30 – 15:30</p> <p>Session 2: The UHC Knowledge Hub</p>	

Moderator: Dr. Suwit Wibulpolprasert

1. Overall frame for this session

The second session introduces the UHC Knowledge Hub in a clear and practical way. Co-hosts will explain what the Hub is, how it works, and its long-term goals. Ministers from the first cohort of participating countries will share why they joined the Hub and how it can support their national UHC reforms. Technical partners and regional organizations will offer their perspectives on how the Hub can strengthen collaboration between health and finance ministries and better align support from global partners.

2. Objectives

- i. Explain the purpose, goals, and long-term ambition of the UHC Knowledge Hub in a clear and accessible way.
- ii. Provide a platform for participating countries and regional partners to share their insights and perspectives.

3. Agenda and speakers

Agenda	Speaker
Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Suwit Wibulpolprasert (Advisor, International Health Policy Program Foundation)
Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Mitazono presents Japan's perspective on the UHC Knowledge Hub and outlines the Government's expectations for its impact. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Satoshi Mitazono (Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Finance, Japan)
Presentation on the UHC knowledge Hub <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Bank provides an overview of the UHC Knowledge Hub, explaining its purpose and how it works through a visual presentation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Hnin Hnin Pyne (Program Manager, World Bank Group)
Ministerial roundtable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In this roundtable, ministers and representatives will each share how their countries are participating in the first cohort of the UHC Knowledge Hub and how the Hub can support their national UHC reforms. They will highlight key challenges, priorities, and areas where collaboration between health and finance ministries is essential. The moderator will guide a brief, interactive conversation to draw out each country's expectations for how the Hub can accelerate progress. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Kwabena Mintah Akandoh (Minister of Health, Ghana) Dr. Youk Sambath (Secretary of State, Ministry of Health, Cambodia) Mr. Sudarto (Senior Advisor to the Minister of Finance on Public Expenditure, Indonesia) Ms. Mai Farid (CEO, Universal Health Insurance Authority of Egypt) Dr. Patrick Omwanda Amoth, (Director General for Health,

	Ministry of Health, Kenya)
<p>Spotlight conversations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>In this spotlight segment, senior representatives from International Health Policy Program Foundation, World Bank, WHO Africa Region, and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will share how their organizations see the UHC Knowledge Hub driving real change in countries. They will offer perspectives on strengthening collaboration between health and finance leaders, aligning partner support, and creating synergies with existing technical assistance. Through a moderated conversation, speakers will highlight how the Hub can help address reform barriers, mobilize leadership, and support implementation at scale across different regions.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Angkana Lekagul (Secretary General, International Health Policy Program Foundation) ● Dr Monique Vledder (Director for Health, World Bank Group) ● Prof. Mohamed Janabi (WHO Regional Director for Africa) ● Dr Akihiko Tanaka (President, Japan International Cooperation Agency)

15:30 – 16:30

Session 3: Road to 2030 and beyond

Moderator: Dr Victor Dzau

1. Overall frame for this session

This session looks ahead to the 2027 UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on UHC and launches a global listening process that will help shape an ambitious vision for the post Sustainable Development Goals agenda. It highlights how the UHC Knowledge Hub and National Health Compacts can guide countries toward sustainably financed, country-led health systems for 2030 and beyond. Speakers will reflect on how today's changing health challenges require renewed leadership, financial self-reliance, and stronger collaboration between ministries of health and finance. A keynote, panel discussion, and spotlight conversation will explore the policy shifts, financing reforms, and global cooperation needed to accelerate UHC progress. The session will also discuss how to build a focused and action-oriented Political Declaration for 2027 with measurable commitments. Japan will close the session by sharing key messages and how the UHC Knowledge Hub can support the post-2030 global health agenda.

2. Objectives

- i. To identify priority actions that countries and partners can take toward an ambitious UHC declaration at the 2027 UN General Assembly, and to outline a clear path for sustainably financing health through 2030 and beyond.

3. Agenda and speakers

Agenda	Speaker
Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr Victor Dzau (President, National Academy of Medicine)
Keynote <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Dr. Røttingen offers a keynote on today's rapidly changing global health landscape, highlighting the importance of leadership, financial self-reliance, and local ownership — and why this moment is critical for advancing health financing and reforming the global health architecture.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr John-Arne Røttingen (CEO, Wellcome Trust)
Panel discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>This panel brings together leaders from governments, global institutions, and academia to discuss the concrete steps needed to strengthen health financing on the road to 2030 and beyond. Speakers will share country experiences with reforms that have advanced UHC, the challenges that remain, and what kinds of policy and financing shifts are required for sustainable progress. The discussion will explore lessons on political commitment, domestic resource mobilization, integration of services, equity, and the role of the private sector. It will also highlight how global</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Sarvar Qurboniyon (Deputy Minister of Finance, Tajikistan) Dr Diana Atwine (Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Uganda) Dr. Jean Kaseya (Director General, Africa CDC) Prof. Ren Minghui (Director (Institute for Global Health, Peking

<p><i>and regional initiatives can better support countries' efforts moving forward. Together, the panel will outline practical ideas to help shape the post-2030 UHC agenda.</i></p>	<p>University, China)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Osamu Kunii (CEO, Global Health Innovation and Technology Fund) ● Ms Priya Basu (Executive Head, Pandemic Fund)
<p>Spotlight conversations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>This spotlight segment looks ahead to the 2027 UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on UHC, a major milestone for shaping the post-2030 global health agenda. Senior leaders from WHO, South Africa, Thailand, Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), and UHC2030 will share their perspectives on how to craft an ambitious Political Declaration that can drive stronger and more sustainable health financing. Speakers will discuss lessons from recent global processes, the importance of data and accountability, and how to build consensus around a forward-looking agenda that moves beyond reaffirming past commitments. The conversation will also explore opportunities to link UHC with broader global health priorities and ensure no one is left behind. Together, these insights will help guide the preparation for the 2027 UN high-level meeting.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr Yukiko Nakatani (WHO Assistant Director-General for Health Systems) ● Prof. Nicholas Crisp (Deputy Director General, Ministry of Health, South Africa) ● Dr Jadej Thamatcharee (Secretary General, National Health Security Office, Thailand) ● Dr Christopher Murray (Director, Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation) ● Dr Magda Robalo (Co-chair of the UHC2030 Steering Committee)
<p>Wrap-up</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr John-Arne Røttingen (CEO, Wellcome Trust)
<p>Closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Piukala and Ms. Murthi will close the session by highlighting the key takeaways and the role of the UHC Knowledge Hub in shaping health financing for the post-SDG era. They will offer final reflections on the way forward and express appreciation to all speakers and participants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr Saia Ma'u Piukala (WHO Regional Director for Western Pacific) ● Ms Mamta Murthi (Vice President, People, World Bank Group)