



## ESMO Statement for the UN High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage 23 September 2019, New York

The European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) has a global network of over 23,000 oncology professionals in 156 countries.

We support the UN Political Declaration on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) because health is a human right, not a privilege, and no cancer patient should be left behind without access to affordable quality cancer and palliative care services.

We call on governments to show strong, sustainable political will to:

- Prioritize high-impact investments in cancer care by accelerating the implementation of the 2017 'Cancer Resolution' (WHA 70.12)
- Offer, and pay for, comprehensive essential cancer services within national UHC packages, which is currently lacking in many countries.

We invite governments to draw upon ESMO resources for cancer that can support achieving the 3 dimensions of UHC:

- The [ESMO-ASCO Global Curriculum in Medical Oncology](#) supports training the necessary workforce to '**increase population coverage**'.
- The evidence-based [ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines](#) and [Pan-Asian Adapted ESMO Guidelines](#) can guide decisions to cost-effectively '**expand essential health services**'.
- The [ESMO-Magnitude of Clinical Benefit Scale](#) can help prioritize cancer medicines to frame appropriate use of limited public and personal resources to '**reduce the financial burden of health services**'.

ESMO is proudly supporting WHO projects that can facilitate UHC and the inclusion of cancer services in national UHC packages.

Thank you.