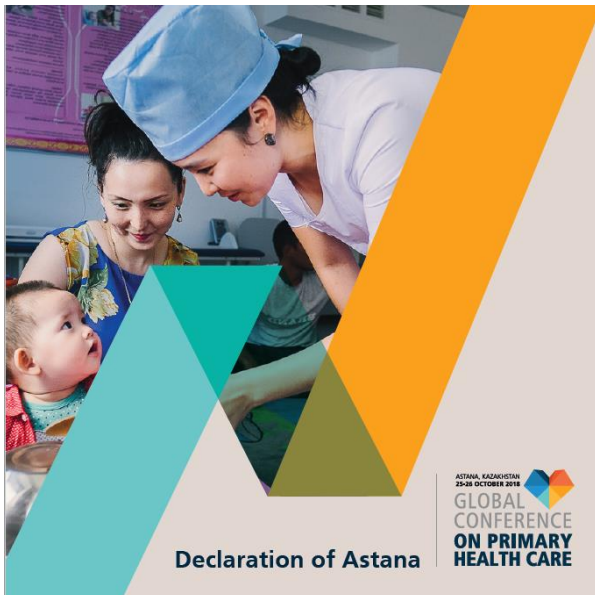


Declaration of Astana

October 2018

*From Alma Ata toward universal health coverage
and the Sustainable Development Goals*



Available from:

<https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/primary-health/declaration/gcphc-declaration.pdf>

Heads of States and Governments, Ministers, and representatives of States and Governments met at Astana, Kazakhstan 25-26 October 2018 for the Global Conference on Primary Health Care and reaffirmed commitments made at Alma Ata in 1978 in pursuit of 'health for all'.

Their vision, outlined in the Declaration of Astana is for:

Governments and societies that prioritize, promote and protect people's health and wellbeing, at both population and individual levels, through strong health systems.

Primary health care and health services that are high quality, safe, comprehensive, integrated, accessible, available and affordable for everyone and everywhere, provided with compassion, respect and dignity by health professionals who are well-trained, skilled, motivated and committed.

Enabling and health-conducive environments in which individuals and communities are empowered and engaged in maintaining and enhancing their health and wellbeing.

Partners and stakeholders aligned in providing effective support to national health policies, strategies and plans.

The Declaration acknowledges that in spite of remarkable progress over the last 40 years, people in all parts of the world still have unaddressed health needs; and noted that remaining healthy is challenging for many people, particularly the poor and people in vulnerable situations, and finding it ethically, politically socially and economically unacceptable that inequity in health and disparities in health outcomes persist.

The Declaration affirms that strengthening primary health care (PHC) is the most inclusive, effective and efficient approach to enhance people's physical and mental health, as well as social wellbeing, and that PHC is a cornerstone of a sustainable health system for achieving universal health coverage (UHC) and health-related Sustainable Development Goals.

Signatories strongly affirmed their commitment to the fundamental right of every human being to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health without distinction of any kind and reaffirmed their commitment to all the values and principles of the Declaration of Alma Ata, particularly to justice and solidarity, underlining the importance of health for peace, security and socioeconomic development, and their interdependence.

They committed to:

- Making bold political choices for health across all sectors.
- Building sustainable primary health care.
- Empowering individuals and communities.
- Aligning stakeholder support to national policies, strategies and plans.

What does the Declaration of Astana mean for nurses and midwives? Nurses and midwives have always been at the forefront of delivering primary health care services. Forty years after the Declaration of Alma Ata placing primary importance on primary health care to achieve "health for all" the focus of most health systems remains on acute in hospital care. Will anything change in the next forty years? The global emphasis on universal health coverage and the sustainable development goals suggest it will. Nurses and midwives and their representative associations need to be proactively engaged in formulating national plans for how the commitment to primary health care will be implemented.