

Yaoundé, 19th December 2019

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**To the Minister of Public Health
Dr MALACHIE MANAOUA
Yaoundé - Cameroon**

H.E. Minister of Public Health,

It is an honour to deliver this statement on behalf of thirty representatives from 24 civil society organizations (CSOs) who converged for a two-day collaborative and advocacy workshop on the 11th and 12th of December 2019, aimed at fostering the realization of the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Agenda in Cameroon. Mr Minister, we will like to thank your leadership and the government of Cameroon for committing herself to the UHC declaration as this demonstrates a strong political will in improving the health and wellbeing of the 23million inhabitants of Cameroon. As civil society organizations, we believe that the implementation of this Political Declaration will be a major contribution to a Cameroon in which every person's right to health is protected. However, as CSOs we have examined a few gaps and have made proposals which we believe if implemented, will speed up the implementation of this agenda:

- 1. Availability of information to all:** We would recommend that all information on the progress of UHC in Cameroon including UHC implementation plans, policies, strategies and structure be made available online as this will facilitate progress tracking by all stakeholders.



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2. **Improving primary health care service delivery:** Stepping up the budget for healthcare services (15% as stated by the Abuja declaration).
3. **Motivation of health personnel in remote areas;** we also recommend the motivation of doctors serving in remote communities by prioritising them for national and international scholarships as this will serve as a motivation for others to take up duties when deployed to such areas.
4. **Urgent package for internally displaced pregnant women:** Many displaced pregnant women have lost their lives because of lack of financial means to access healthcare. It will be amazing if your office can look at a mechanism of setting up a coverage scheme for all displaced persons starting with pregnant women and children below the age of 5.
5. **Setting up an external monitoring body:** create a separate body headed by CSOs to monitor and evaluate the implementation process and progress of the UHC agenda especially at the community levels.
6. **Set up anti-corruption structures at ports of entries to reduce illicit drugs trade:** a control structure should be stationed at every port of entry to monitor, control and scan to confirm quality of drugs entering the country. There should also be medical personnel to ensure that entry of such drugs is prohibited.
7. **Decentralization of health services:** During the implementation of the decentralisation agenda, primary health care should be of high priority; giving regions the autonomy to source for medications and funding. Also, communities should be given some rights to mobilize and construct roads, bridges etc leading to hospitals to ensure access to health facilities.
8. **health insurance scheme at birth:** An obligatory mechanism should be put in place for parents to save for their children's healthcare. An example could be the

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deduction of an insignificant percentage of every airtime loaded to carter for health through partnership with telecommunication networks.

- 9. Integrate health education into the school curriculum:** Primary, secondary and high schools should have at least a course on primary healthcare to enable them get basic knowledge on communicable and non-communicable diseases, sexual education and rights to health. The drawing up of the content of this course should involve all stakeholders including parents and CSOs.
- 10 Include medical law as a program in the university:** this will go a long way to build young professionals who will keep the system to check and fish out culprits of malpractices in the health sector.

We will be glad if you can take a look at the above points and give us feedback on the outcome. To this regard the executive will like to book a physical audience with you to understand the progress made by our government to enable us speed up the implementation of the UHC in Cameroon.

- Attached are the names and signatures of all the organizations who came up with this statement:



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