• April 7th marks WHO’s 70th anniversary. It is also World Health Day.

• In 1948, WHO was founded on the principle that “The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition.”

• WHO succeeded the League of Nations' Health Organization.

• Its establishment was approved by the UN Conference in San Francisco, USA in 1945. The WHO Constitution was drafted by a committee, chaired by Dr Brock Chisholm, who became WHO's first Director-General in 1948.

• The Constitution was approved by Member States during the International Health Conference in New York, USA in 1946, signed on 22 July 1946 by the representatives of 61 States and entered into force on 7 April 1948, 70 years ago.

Universal health Coverage (UHC)

• Universal health coverage is more than just health insurance or health care.

• It means ensuring people can get quality health services, where and when they need them, without suffering financial hardship.

• This year, the organization is dedicating World Health Day to one of its founding principles:ÂÂ that everyone, everywhere, should be able to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health.

• That principle is as valid today as it was in 1948. And it lies at the heart of the Sustainable Development Agenda.

• WHO is calling for Universal Health Coverage: everyone, everywhere.

• Because we know that Universal Health Coverage is feasible. Evidence and experience show that all countries, at all income levels, can make progress with the resources they have.

UHC today

• At least half the world’s people don't receive the essential health services they need.

• About 100 million people are being pushed into extreme poverty (