

Panel discussion 3: How have countries reached universal coverage: a reflection on peer approaches

Possible General questions to be used in the opening or to close:

- If you have to pick one factor that was key in guarantee the success of reaching universal coverage in your country what would it be?
- Again if you have to pick only one. What was the most difficult challenge?

Possible to close

- Would you like to leave a message to other countries that are still in the process of extending coverage?

China

Mr. Jin Weigang, Head of Institute of Social Insurance Studies, China

- When one looks to the figures of social protection coverage in China, it is impressive to witness the pace of the extension in terms pension and health insurance coverage. It clearly shows to other countries in the world, that it is feasible to extend coverage to all citizens over a short period of time. What were the key secrets of the Chinese success?
- Everyone recognizes how complex these processes are. What were and what are the main challenges?
- Many times in a process of extension of health insurance coverage one of the challenges lies in the way services cope with increased demand. We are aware that in China the extension of Health Insurance took place in parallel with a significant investment in health facilities and health workers. Could you share with how did China manage this challenge?
- What are in your view the main impacts of the health insurance universal coverage for the Chinese population?

Thailand:

Mr. Supasit Pannarunothai, MD PhD, Centre for Health Equity Monitoring Foundation, Thailand

- Thailand is a reference in the region and in the world regarding the extension of health protection. Could you kindly share with us the process that led to this expansion?
- One feature of the Thai system is the way different systems complement each other to guarantee universal coverage. Coordination between those systems and institutions is

essential. Could you let us know how is this coordination done? For instance, how do the systems communicate?

- One of the challenges faced by many countries in the region regards the payment provider mechanism. Could you kindly explain us how does the system operates in Thailand, particularly the Diagnosis Related Groups (DRGs)?
- In the case of Thailand civil society was instrumental in the process of reaching Universal health coverage. Can you share with us the role played by civil society coalition?

Argentina:

Mr. Oscar Centragólo, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina

- Argentina universal coverage was reached through a mix of contributory and non contributory measures. Could you explain to our participants how the Argentinian system works? Could you exemplify with share with us the structure of the Child and Family Allowance Program (Asignaciones Universal oir Hijo y la Asignacion Familiar)?
- One innovation from Latin America is the use of simplified mechanisms when it comes to payment of contributions (monotax or monotributo) for those in the informal economy. Could what are the main features of this system and what is in your view its potential to contribute to the formalization of SMEs?
- Studies have shown the positive impact of social transfers in reducing inequality in Latin America; particularly when well-coordinated with other labour policies. Could you share with us the experience of Argentina in the last decade and the impact of those measures in inequality?