



United Nations Activity Report

The theme of the [High Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage](#) is “Universal Health Coverage: Moving Together to Build a Healthier World,” and an important step in the preparation process is the interactive multi-stakeholder hearing convened by the president of the [United Nations General Assembly](#) on 29 April 2019, United Nations Headquarters, in New York, NY, USA.

Report Submitted by Valerie Clary-Muronda, Sigma United Nations Liaison

The preferred approach suggested at the conference is to collaborate. Getting the word out to Sigma members that Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is a United Nations priority is key. This is not an issue that we debate about only in the United States.

The importance of partnership and collaboration was stressed at the hearing. Some panel speakers spoke of their personal experiences — some from the perspectives of dealing with an excellent UHC system, and some from very broken UHC systems. The panelists hailed from Thailand, Australia, Uganda, and Canada.

The main theme is focused on the importance of access to affordable quality care. I posed a question in the forum that asked if stakeholders have considered nurses as a viable solution for affordable quality care, especially in areas where medical professionals are scarce. Some of the panelists discussed potential approaches to the path of UHC. Panelists’ backgrounds included policymakers, physicians, pharmaceutical companies, insurance companies, and individuals with personal stories to share. This is pertinent to Sigma since we represent nurses with a variety of leadership experiences and expertise that can offer viable solutions to the problems and questions posed in the discussion. There were a few comments about implementation research projects, and Sigma researchers would be great candidates to lead such projects. There was also discussion about engaging academic institutions in research, since many valuable resources would be available that would make implementation research projects easier and more manageable.

Toward the end of the day, representatives from various countries made intervention statements on behalf of their governments.