**"Goodwill Message delivered by the Executive Secretary of the National Health**

**insurance Scheme (NHIS) Prof. M. N. Sambo at the Nigeria Governor's Forum**

**7th Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) Learning Event at the Congress Hall**

**Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja on September 29, 2021**

**Protocols,**

It is heart-warming to have been invited to give a goodwill message at Nigeria

Governor's Forum 7th Internally Generated Revenue Learning Event.

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) entails that all people can access the health care

that they require, of sufficient quality to when they need it and without financial hardship. UHC requires mandatory participation for greater cross-subsidies to promote equitable access: the rich subsidize the poor, the healthy subsidize the sick and the active populations subsidize the extremes of life.

While there are several options for financing UHC, social health insurance and

taxation have proven to be two of the most popular. Social health insurance

mobilizes and pools financial resources from equitable enrollee contributions for the

purchase of health care services. Taxation also has the potential to mobilize funds

from various taxes which may or may not be equitable and may or may not be pooled

for strategic purchasing.

One major challenge across the world in efforts to attain UHC is how to extend

effective coverage to informal sector populations and especially those who are

vulnerable, due to irregular incomes, poverty levels, relative inaccessibility and other

issues. It is, therefore, necessary to improve on existing measures and explore

innovative financing mechanisms to cover these groups.

At NHIS, we recognize the importance of stakeholder engagements and partnerships

in our collective quest to attain UHC. This is evident from our active participation in

the implementation of the Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHCPF), as well as the

Group, Individual and Family Social Health Insurance Programme (GIFSHIP) which

provides an opportunity for those outside the formal sector to enjoy the same package

as those within the formal sector. It is also evident from the development of a

coordination platform for health insurance actors aptly called Health Insurance Under

One Roof (HIUOR).

We are committed to working with evidence, having recently developed an

organizational research policy and commissioned several studies to generate

evidence for policy formulation and decision making. Indeed, we are committed to

continuously improving our operational processes and ensuring that no Nigerian is left

behind in the quest to attain UHC.

That is why we salute the commitment of the Nigeria Governor's Forum to making

UHC a reality in Nigeria. We also acknowledge the efforts of Honourable

Commissioners for Health, the State Social Health Insurance Agencies and the State

Primary Health Care Development Agencies to expand access to health care in their

respective States.

As an avid researcher myself, I look forward to hearing more details about the study

on the Tax-for-Service Model and understanding how it may be adapted or integrated

to strengthen existing structures and mechanisms within our health system. The

ultimate aim is to ensure quality and affordable healthcare for the benefit of all

Nigerians.

I wish you fruitful deliberations.

Thank you.