

NEWS RELEASE

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MEXICO SHARES ITS EXPERIENCE REGARDING UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

- *The Mexican Minister of Health, Mercedes Juan, participated in the International Conference: “Towards Universal Health Coverage” in Peru.*
- *She introduced the health reform that the President of Mexico, Mr. Enrique Peña Nieto, wants to apply in the country in order to create a Universal Health Care System.*

Universal Health Coverage is a very important goal for most of the countries in the world. Nevertheless, due to the increase in the expenditure on health care as a consequence of technological development, epidemiological changes and the aging of the population, each country must consider its own context in order to achieve such a goal.

The former was claimed by the Mexican Minister of Health, Mercedes Juan, during her participation at the International Conference “Towards Universal Health Coverage”. In this Forum, the Minister of Health talked about the Mexican experience with the “Popular Insurance”, a mechanism that provides health care services to all the Mexican population who does not count with Social Security.

Before the more that 500 attendants to this Conference in Lima, Peru, the Mexican Minister of Health pointed out the challenges that were faced during the process of expansion of the Popular Insurance in Mexico, which was implemented through the National Commission of Social Health Care Protection.

The Mexican Minister of Health talked about the health reform that the President of Mexico, Mr. Enrique Peña Nieto, wants to apply in Mexico in order to create a universal health care system that provides medical attention of good quality to all the people without any kind of exclusion. In this way, the right to health protection that every Mexican is entitled to by the 4th article of the Political Constitution of the United States of Mexico, would be made effective.

She said that the System of Social Protection in Health allowed the expansion of medical attention to the population that did not count with social security and that up to date assists 53 million people.

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The objective of the International Conference was to exchange experiences that contribute to achieve the universal health care coverage among the countries of the region and make commitments.

The Director- General of the World Health Organization, Mrs. Margaret Chan, as well as ministers and representatives of health of Ecuador, Uruguay, Mexico, the United States, France and Belgium attended the event.

During the Conference, Mrs. Margaret Chan recognized the global responsibility that Mexico showed during the H1N1 flu crisis of 2009 in Mexico.

Highlights:

- The Popular Insurance in Mexico seeks to provide health service coverage through voluntary, public insurance for persons that are not affiliated to any social security institution.
- Currently, it provides coverage for 275 medical operations.

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