



**ESMO Statement
for the
WHO Executive Board Meeting
22 January – 27 January 2024**

Agenda item 6: Universal Health Coverage

Honorable Chair, Esteemed Delegates,

The European Society for Medical Oncology, representing more than 35,000 cancer professionals from 172 countries, welcomes the Director-General's report that highlights Member States' political commitment to achieve Universal Health Coverage.

To advance the implementation of the political declaration on UHC, we encourage member states to:

- Guarantee their entire population benefit packages that include a core set of comprehensive, safe, affordable, effective, and high-quality services for cancer prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment according to guidelines, and rehabilitation, and supportive and palliative care that address quality of life, side-effects, and all aspects of toxicity.
- Ensure access to cancer medicines, including opioids for pain relief and post-treatment medicines.
- Optimize the oncology workforce through measures to improve education, training and retention.

Thank you.