Do you have any comments about the guiding principles?
Yes

Comments:
The British Medical Association (BMA) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on this draft Declaration on primary health care (PHC).

The BMA is a professional association and trade union representing and negotiating on behalf of all doctors and medical students in the UK. It is a leading voice advocating for outstanding health care and a healthy population.

We support and affirm the guiding principles of this Declaration, which are closely aligned to our own longstanding policy recognising a strong foundation of PHC as the best route to achieving health for all through personalised care in the community. These principles reflect the core values of the medical profession, as well as the wealth of evidence on the critical factors necessary for people and communities to attain a high standard of health.

Medical professionals delivering PHC play a vital role in advancing health and health equity through comprehensive, ongoing and holistic support. However, the social determinants of health go beyond the scope of what medical professionals can fully mediate, and it is right that the first principle speaks to the role of society in creating environments that protect the health of all people. We also welcome the emphasis placed on individuals’ role in supporting their own health and well-being, both through self-care and through active engagement in shaping their local health systems.

Does the vision adequately capture what is needed in PHC for today?
Yes

Comments:
We are fully supportive of the Declaration’s vision of the key features need in modern PHC. We would also add that an element of advocacy may be needed on the part of the medical profession and other healthcare professions. Doctors and other healthcare professionals are ideally placed to...
use their position of trust and power, together with their direct experience of local people’s health needs, to influence governments and wider society to take the necessary actions to enhance health and health equity.

**Does the vision accurately express the linkages between PHC and UHC and the SDGs?**

Yes

**Comments:**
The evidence for PHC being the optimal route for achieving UHC, as well as the interdependent and mutually reinforcing relationship between PHC and UHC in the long-term, are clearly and accurately articulated in this Declaration. Strong links to the specific SDG commitments crucial to achieving UHC are also well integrated into the text.

**Are the drivers for success well explained?**

Yes

**Comments:**
The drivers for success are explained in a thorough but accessible manner and we agree that these cover all key domains. We have identified a few additional points which could potentially be included within specific sections to enhance their comprehensiveness. These are as follows:

- **Knowledge** – It may be helpful to state in this section that we now have a greater understanding of the need for disease specific and other specialised programmes to be embedded within PHC and wider health systems strengthening in order to be sustainable and maximise efficacy.

- **Technology** – It may also be useful to note that digital technologies can particularly help to improve access and reduce the cost of high quality care for rural populations, which include many vulnerable and marginalised people.

**Is the description of today’s challenges appropriate?**

Yes

**Comments:**
This section provides an accurate and concise overview of progress as well as ongoing challenges to health globally. We feel it would also be helpful to highlight the double burden of disease occurring in low-resource settings by adding a line after, “Unhealthy lifestyles and environments have resulted in chronic diseases becoming the leading causes of illness, disability and death”. This could read, for example, “Ill health from these diseases is increasing rapidly in settings where infectious diseases are still inadequately controlled and health systems are not resourced to provide long-term care.”

**Would you add or remove anything from the section: “To address today’s challenges and seize opportunities for a health future we must...”?**
This section robustly addresses the key areas of action needed to achieve UCH and deliver on the SDGs, including: involving people at the ground level in designing fit for purpose health services; working with political decision makers to achieve necessary structural reforms and secure sustainable funding; rightly emphasising the critical roles of preventive public health functions and high quality PHC, delivered by an appropriately skilled and well-supported multidisciplinary healthcare workforce; and actively embracing the need for cross-sector action aligned to national policies and strategies to support effective delivery of this Declaration.

Does the closing include all the key action elements? Is it motivational and inspirational?

Yes

Comments:
The closing is succinct but comprehensive, and ends will a motivating call to action. We believe that these statements will inspire actors from a wide range of organisations and bodies to play a meaningful role in achieving the vision set out in this Declaration.