

SHEM STATEMENT TO THE 76th UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Sustainable Health Equity Movement (SHEM) representing the voices of more than 20 million health professionals and from related fields is honored to address the 76th. United Nations General Assembly requesting that its message in favor of sustainable health equity be considered in the deliberations of this prestigious meeting of world leaders.

In 2015, the 70th United Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution that presented the world with the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

It is generally agreed that the 2030 Agenda encompasses all the main social and environmental issues of our times which, if fully implemented, may truly transform the world as envisioned by our leaders.

It goes without saying that the Sustainable Development Goal and its targets cannot be achieved without an earnest political and financing commitment.

The Secretary General's 2021 Sustainable Development Goals report clearly states what are the consequences of holding back its own commitment to transform the world:

"Had the paradigm shift envisioned by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development been fully embraced over the past six years, the world would have been better prepared to face this crisis – with stronger health systems, expanded social protection coverage, the resilience that comes from more equal societies, and a healthier natural environment".

The question is: why hasn't the paradigm shift been fully embraced? Is it not because there is another paradigm, of a political and economic nature, that forbids it? That not only it forbids, but generates the opposite of what is envisioned by the Sustainable Development Goals?

The 75th session of the UNGA adopted a number of resolutions on the COVID-19 pandemic, explicitly stressing the need to fight the injustices and inequities it has laid bare.

We congratulate you for that!

But at this 76th session we, the people, expect more, for at the suffering end, little has been done. The major lesson we learned from COVID-19 is that no nation is safe until everyone is.

We need the paradigm shift envisioned in the 2030 Agenda to be fully embraced and financed with the greatest generosity.

We cannot fail! We may not have a second chance!