

Goodwill message by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Budget and National Planning, Mr. Ernest. A. Umakhihe at the Country Level Advocacy Meeting on Universal Health Coverage at the UN House, Diplomatic Drive, CBD, Abuja, on Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2019.

Protocol:

I am delighted to deliver this goodwill message at this advocacy meeting on the Universal Healthcare Coverage. Universal health care imply that everyone, everywhere, people have access to health care services needed to protect, improve and maintain their well being at anytime.

2. Let me on behalf of the Government of Nigeria appreciate the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), International Red Cross and Red Crescent Cross (IFRC), Afrihealth and others whose collaboration is bringing about this engagement on Universal Health Coverage for the purpose of developing a common position towards the UN High Level meeting in New York on UHC in September, 2019. The Government of Nigeria is favourably disposed to this, particularly its relevant to the upcoming 74<sup>th</sup> UNGA in New York.

3. As you may be aware, the demand for Universal health care began since 1948, the year the World Health Organization declared health care a basic human right and Nigeria has adopted its Revised National HIV and AIDS Strategic Framework 2019-2021. There is no doubt that this meeting that includes engagement of the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) will create a paradigm shift in addressing some fundamental questions with regards to access to quality healthcare.