Almost 30 years ago, Dr Antezana took part in the historic Alma-Ata international conference on primary health care. He went on to hold several senior posts within WHO, including Deputy Director-General, and was later appointed Minister of Health in Bolivia. In the light of WHO's renewed interest in primary health care, he reflects today on the importance of the 1978 meeting, and on the progress and setbacks encountered in the following three decades in the quest for access to health and health care for all. He looks at the new challenges facing PHC today, and offers some ideas on the best way forward.

Dr Antezana is the current Chairman of the WHO Executive Board

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