UHC law means any legal rule existing and applicable within a country that regulates UHC including formal written laws such as statutory laws (enacted by a legislative body such as a parliament), regulatory and administrative laws (passed by executive authorities of the government), contracts, case law (court rulings), and customary laws.

UHC law works by providing the means to create the institutional framework for UHC made up of UHC principles, the rule systems needed for UHC, legal capacity, rights and relationships, organisational frameworks and partnerships.

The country context for UHC law reform is essential to understand work on UHC law: including the health sector context, the legal and regulatory context, and the political context for reform.

It is essential to understand whether UHC law reform is feasible, whether there is acceptance of (or opposition to) the proposed reform, whether there is authority to proceed (especially authority from political decision-makers) and whether the country has the ability to complete the work (does it have the capacity to make, implement and administer the planned law(s)).

Partnership with the private sector for UHC depends on the capacity of governments to exercise effective governance over the private sector including: formulating public policies about the role of the private sector, understanding the private sector in a country and the operation of a country’s health markets, implementing public policy about the private sector’s contribution to health using a variety of legal instruments.

UHC policy performance involves looking at how UHC laws provide the capacity to implement UHC policies and programs that are designed to achieve the desired objectives of UHC: universal access to health services and products, health quality and financial risk protection (sdg#3.8).