

**140<sup>th</sup> WHO Executive Board Statement****Agenda Item 11.2: Role of the health sector in the sound management of chemicals**

Honourable chairperson, distinguished delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver this statement on behalf of the Union for International Cancer Control. This statement is supported by NCD Alliance.

We commend the Secretariat for developing the road map based on mounting evidence that harmful exposure to chemicals, including via air pollution and occupational settings, leads to increased risk of NCDs. We call on WHO and Member States to:

- **Strengthen understanding and public awareness of the links between chemicals and NCDs:** We welcome the references to NCDs throughout the road map. Further research including risks and population exposure is essential to deepen understanding of links between harmful exposure to chemicals and NCDs, including diabetes, neurological disorders, and cancer to support an informed and coordinated response. The IARC monographs are an invaluable resource for known carcinogens. Investment in public awareness campaigns, particularly focused on vulnerable groups, is also needed to mobilise action.
- **Develop tools and implementation guidance for national policies, and continuously update and disseminate good practice:** Member States have a crucial role in sharing good practice interventions, cost and cost-effectiveness data to accelerate achievement of the 2020 goal.
- **Promote participation by Civil Society in monitoring and implementation:** We commend the opportunities for civil society input in development of the road map. We also wish to underscore the unique and valuable competencies that civil society can bring to national implementation, including technical and advocacy expertise as well as independent accountability.
- **Protect public health from conflicts of interest:** We urge that actions to protect against industry interference be incorporated into the road map. Governments should furthermore incentivise use of safer alternatives to commonly used highly hazardous chemicals, such as asbestos and certain pesticides.

We stand ready to support WHO and Member States in these endeavours.

The NCD Alliance is led by:



International Union Against  
Tuberculosis and Lung Disease  
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