

His Excellency Mr Mauricio Macri  
President, Argentine Republic

The NCD Alliance  
31-33 Avenue de Giuseppe Motta  
1207 Geneva, Switzerland

24 October 2017

Dear President Macri,

On behalf of the NCD Alliance, a global civil society network dedicated to reducing the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), we welcome Argentina's Presidency of the G20 in 2018. In recognition of your commitment to health, we are writing to urge you to include NCDs as a health priority during your G20 Presidency. As the number one killer and a major barrier to economic growth globally and nationally, the G20 has a responsibility to address one of the most urgent challenges to global health and sustainable development in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Globally, NCDs (including diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular disease, and chronic respiratory disease) kill 40 million people each year, equivalent to 70% of all deaths. Of these, 15 million occur between the ages of 30 and 69 years; the most productive years of life. NCD mortality and morbidity exert a heavy burden on individuals, society and economies in all G20 countries, jeopardising health and economic growth in developing and developed countries alike. It is estimated that NCDs will cost the world \$47 trillion between 2011-2025. There is an urgent need for high-level political efforts to improve policy coherence across government sectors and for smart prevention policies alongside improved NCD services within UHC.

We commend the Argentinian government for your focus on global health during the G20 Presidency, and especially the recognition of the importance of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). This will build upon the Hamburg G20 Leaders' Declaration and the Berlin G20 Health Ministers' Declaration. The latter notes the need for strong and resilient health systems to achieve UHC, and as a basis for the effective management of health crises, NCDs, and communicable diseases alike.

Advancing NCD prevention and control within UHC is critical to ensuring the health of our people and economies and achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of a 33% reduction in premature mortality from NCDs by 2030. We congratulate Argentina for its leadership and advances in the NCD response to date, not least with regard to the establishment of national NCD targets, stringent tobacco control policies, together with nutritional initiatives such as "Less Salt, More Life".

In a continuation of your leadership, we call for your support to include NCDs as a priority within UHC during your Presidency of the G20. Your leadership will be timely, given the upcoming third UN High-Level Meeting

on NCDs which will take place at UN Headquarters in New York in 2018. This high-level meeting will provide an opportunity for government representatives at the highest level and across sectors to take stock of progress of NCDs, renew commitments, and ensure a sustained political response to this global challenge. This week's WHO Global Conference on NCDs in Montevideo is a key step in the preparatory process for the 2018 UN meeting.

Addressing NCDs on the G20 agenda is an opportunity to set the world on track toward achievement of SDG3 on health, and to further consolidate the relevance of global health and NCDs to economic and social development, stability, sustainability and resilience.

The NCD Alliance stands ready to support you and G20 leaders in these endeavours.

Yours faithfully,



Mr José Luis Castro  
President, NCD Alliance



Ms Katie Dain  
Chief Executive Officer, NCD Alliance

#### **About the NCD Alliance:**

The NCD Alliance unites 2,000 civil society organisations in more than 170 countries, dedicated to improving NCD prevention and control worldwide. The mission of the NCD Alliance is to unite and strengthen civil society to stimulate collaborative advocacy, action and accountability.