

Joint Statement on Agenda item 4.6: Proposed Plan of Action for the Elimination of Industrially Produced Trans-Fatty Acids 2020-2025 ([CD57/8](#))

We deliver this statement on behalf of the InterAmerican Heart Foundation, World Heart Federation, NCD Alliance (global), Resolve to Save Lives, Healthy Latin American Coalition, Mexico Salud-Hable Coalition, ACT Health Promotion (Brazil), Healthy Caribbean Coalition, NCD Alliance-Uruguay, National Coalition for the Prevention of Childhood Obesity (Argentina).

Industrial trans fats are a significant risk factor for NCDs and cardiovascular disease, now the leading cause of death in the Americas. Eliminating trans fats is a WHO Best Buy and a low-cost, high-impact and feasible intervention, and PAHO has been a leader in the issue mainly through its 2008 Declaration of Rio de Janeiro.

Although the Declaration has accelerated trans fats policies in the region, more countries need to adopt them to ensure healthy foods available for all. We therefore congratulate PAHO's Directing Council decision to approve this Plan of Action, becoming a strategic platform to implement WHO's REPLACE package in the Americas, and to meet WHO's target to eliminate trans fats by 2023 and the global NCD targets.

We call on PAHO Members States to:

- Adopt the Plan of Action and its policy recommendations, considering their contexts and priorities;
- Enact regulations to eliminate industrial trans fats from the food supply, including enforcement, monitoring and evaluation systems;
- Accompany industrial trans fats elimination with clear and easy to interpret nutritional labelling, a policy now being adopted and discussed across the region;
- Ensure the active involvement of civil society and academia throughout the regulatory process;
- Create awareness on the negative health impacts of trans fats, and on the health gains from their elimination.

We also call on PAHO to provide governments with technical support; help conduct national assessments on dietary sources of trans fats; and enable country-to-country technical cooperation to share evidence and best practices.

We stand by to support PAHO and Member States to scale up industrial trans fats elimination, building on this Plan of Action's recommendations.