

Statement at the 70th World Health Assembly
Agenda Item 15.1: Preparation for the third High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the
Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, to be held in 2018

Chairperson, distinguished delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to make this statement on behalf of the World Heart Federation supported by NCD Alliance.

The report highlights that progress on NCDs at the national level remains highly inadequate. NCDs are the social justice issue of our time and a threat to sustainable development around the world. We therefore call on countries to prioritize the **2018 UNHLM on NCDs** and make political and technical provisions to support its **preparatory process** to ensure:

- 1. Participation by heads of state and government**
- 2. Political mobilisation across health and relevant non-health sectors**
- 3. Meaningful engagement of people living with NCDs and civil society**
- 4. An action-oriented outcome document with bold commitments for all relevant sectors**

In particular, we call on Member States to attend the WHO Global Conference on NCDs hosted by the President of Uruguay in October 2017. This is a crucial preparatory meeting for the 2018 UNHLM and presents a vital opportunity to discuss actions to increase policy coherence and working across sectors to achieve the NCD targets, as part of countries' existing sustainable development commitments.

To date, co-benefit solutions for NCDs across the SDGs engaging sectors such as agriculture and food, commerce and trade, education, energy and transport, have been largely ignored. Strategically engaging these sectors through the UN High-Level Meeting process will yield high returns for economies and the health of populations and the planet.

Finally, we urge Member States and the new Director-General to ensure adequate financing of WHO's work on NCDs. Despite being consistently identified by Member States as the highest priority for technical cooperation at country level, this work remains chronically underfunded.

Thank you for your attention.