

**NCD Alliance Statement WHO EMRO Regional Meeting
3-6 October, Cairo, Egypt**

Agenda Item 3d: Progress report on prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases

Statement by NCD Alliance, a global civil society network of over 2,000 organizations united against NCDs.

We once again congratulate the Regional Office on adopting a strong and comprehensive regional NCD Framework. The inclusion of NCDs under the health goal of Agenda 2030 highlights at once the threat NCDs pose to sustainable development, and we now urge Member States to accelerate implementation of the actions set out within the Framework. At this pivotal moment, we call on Member States to:

- 1. Develop and implement national NCD targets:** Only nine countries have developed national multisectoral action plans and six countries set targets for 2025. We urge Member States to honour their commitments made at the 2014 UN Review on NCDs and address this gap.
- 2. Increase the provision of adequate and sustained domestic and international resources** allocated to NCDs and health systems strengthening. One method to increase domestic resources is through taxation of products known to increase NCD risk. We commend the taxation of tobacco and sugary beverages being implemented in some Member States, and strongly recommend consideration of such measures by other Member States, as well as for other products, including alcohol where applicable. Taxation offers a win-win solution by increasing domestic resources for health, while simultaneously decreasing consumption.
- 3. Accelerate progress on and surveillance for NCD prevention:** The logic for investment in prevention is uncontested, yet progress is slow or uneven. We commend the progress made by the region in terms of tobacco use and nutrition risk factors, and now call for particular attention to physical inactivity – the WHO 2014 Global Status Report shows that physical inactivity is highest for EMRO across all WHO regions, especially among women. We call for investment in stringent surveillance systems, given the paucity of data on NCD risk factors reported at the 69th World Health Assembly.
- 4. Address NCDs in humanitarian crises and refugee populations:** We note that while humanitarian crises are emergencies of the most acute nature, the need to make provision for chronic diseases in such circumstances must not be overlooked. Increased access to essential medicines and technologies outlined in the WHO Package of Essential Noncommunicable Disease Interventions for Primary Health Care must be prioritised.
- 5. Strengthen consultation and collaboration with civil society:** We commend the recognition of the expertise and potential contribution of CSOs to implementing the Action Plan. We are committed to strengthening the capacity of civil society working in the region and, together with the Regional Office, organised a meeting of civil society organisations working on NCDs in the Region which took place in August in Amman, Jordan, and provided an opportunity to build capacity and collaborate across countries.

We stand ready to support WHO EMRO and Member States in implementing implementation of the Regional Framework, and thank you for your attention.

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The NCD Alliance is led by:



International Union Against
Tuberculosis and Lung Disease
health solutions for the poor.

