

**NCD Alliance Statement WHO EURO Regional Meeting
12-15 September 2016, Copenhagen, Denmark**

**Agenda Item 5c: Action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases in the WHO
European Region**

Statement of the World Heart Federation and the NCD Alliance, a global civil society network of over 2,000 organizations united against NCDs.

We congratulate the Regional Office on the development of the new European NCD Action Plan. The plan is to be commended for its comprehensive approach to risk factor prevention, including environmental risk factors and underlying socioeconomic inequalities alongside the four traditional risk factors; and for the integrated approach extending to NCDs including mental disorders, dementia, musculoskeletal disorders, and oral diseases, given the shared underlying risk factors and determinants. At this pivotal moment in the region, we call on WHO EURO Member States to:

- 1. Develop and implement national NCD targets:** According to the WHO 2015 NCD Progress Monitor, only 23% of countries in the European Region have set national NCD targets and indicators. We urge Member States to honour their commitments made at the 2014 UN Review on NCDs and address this gap.
- 2. Accelerate progress on risk factor prevention:** The plan evidences the immediate need to strengthen risk factor prevention. The logic for investment in prevention is uncontested, yet progress is slow or uneven. The global target for tobacco control is in danger of not being achieved at regional level, as instruments such as the WHO FCTC and the 2014 European Union Tobacco Products Directive are not comprehensively implemented. Furthermore, rates of obesity *continue to rise*, and we urge implementation of the plan's actions to address physical inactivity and malnutrition.
- 3. Enforce a health in all policies approach:** We reiterate the concerns expressed in the plan regarding the manner in which economic, trade and industrial considerations too frequently override health interests. Health is indeed a political choice, and the incorporation of a health in all policies approach, incorporating trade, taxation, agriculture, education, environment and transport considerations across NCD prevention and control is crucial if progress is to be realised.
- 4. Increase the provision of adequate and sustained domestic and international resources** allocated to NCDs and health systems strengthening. Larger budgetary allocations from domestic, bilateral, regional and multilateral channels for NCDs is urgently needed to strengthen the NCD response.
- 5. Strengthen consultation and collaboration with civil society:** We commend the recognition of the expertise and potential contribution to implementing the Action Plan of CSOs. We are committed to strengthening the capacity of civil society working in the region and, together with the European Chronic Disease Alliance, are organising a meeting of civil society organisations working on NCDs to take place this year.

The inclusion of NCDs under the health goal of Agenda 2030 highlights at once the threat NCDs pose to sustainable development in all countries, and the opportunity we have to reverse this epidemic. If the right interventions are chosen, considerable progress can be made not only for NCDs and health, but make progress on the goals for poverty, inequalities, food and nutrition, energy, cities, and climate change. We 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.

