

NCD Alliance Statement at 138th Executive Board, January 2016

Agenda Item 7.5: Health and the environment: draft roadmap for an enhanced global response to the adverse health effects of air pollution

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver this statement on behalf of the World Lung Foundation, World Heart Federation, and NCD Alliance; a network of civil society organisations united against NCDs.

NCDs and air pollution are intrinsically linked. Indoor and outdoor pollution impact directly on mortality from respiratory disease, cardiovascular disease and cancer, and interventions such as promotion of active transport and sustainable food systems contribute to prevention of all major NCDs through reducing physical inactivity and poor nutrition. We commend development of the roadmap and stand ready to support its implementation.

To further strengthen the roadmap, we encourage the Secretariat to:

- 1. Identify effective policy interventions based on criteria beyond reduction of air pollution alone.** We suggest the public health information tool includes a report and evaluation of global policy implementation together with guidelines similar to the MPOWER measures for tobacco control. Furthermore, we urge WHO to fully incorporate public health advantages of co-benefit solutions which **not only** reduce exposure to air pollution, but **simultaneously** other NCD risk factors.
- 2. Provide specific guidelines for fostering multisectoral collaboration.** The roadmap does not currently foresee guidelines to establish platforms for multisectoral action from municipal to global level. Given the roots of air pollution across a spectrum of sectors, and the integrated and indivisible nature of the SDGs, explicit focus on extending engagement beyond health and environment sectors is required.
- 3. Incorporate civil society and communities within a truly intersectoral approach.** Civil Society has, among other valuable competencies, unique and valuable roles in independent monitoring and accountability, which should be recognised in the roadmap. Additionally, schemes to raise public awareness and empower individuals to interpret data will incentivise action at all levels.

Thank you for your attention.