

NCD Alliance Statement WHO SEARO Regional Meeting, 5-9 September 2016, Colombo, Sri Lanka**Agenda Item 10.6: Regional action plan and targets for prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases**

Statement on behalf of Alzheimer's Disease International and the NCD Alliance, a global civil society network of over 2,000 organisations united against NCDs.

In recent years, significant progress has been made in the NCD response at global and regional level. The WHO Global Action Plan 2013-2020 and accompanying Global Monitoring Framework were agreed and have been translated into a regional framework and ten targets for the South East Asia Region. Most recently, we commend WHO SEARO for the regional consultation on addressing NCDs at the primary healthcare level.

The inclusion of NCDs under the health goal of Agenda 2030 highlights at once the threat NCDs pose to sustainable development and the opportunity we have to reverse this epidemic. We urge Member States to prioritise NCDs in national development plans and call on Member States to:

- 1. Develop national multisectoral NCD plans, targets and indicators:** At the 66th Regional Committee Meeting Member States agreed to develop or strengthen existing multisectoral NCD plans by the end of 2013, and to set national targets to enable collection of baseline data by 2015. The Outcome Document of the 2014 UN Review on NCDs reaffirmed these commitments. According to the WHO 2015 NCD Progress Monitor, 64% of SEAR Member States have national NCD targets and indicators, but only 36% have a national integrated NCD strategy or plan. We call for the meaningful involvement of CSOs in the development and monitoring of national NCD plans, as recommended in *Mapping of civil society organisations in the WHO South East Asia region* published by NCD Alliance in July 2015.
- 2. Integrate NCD prevention and control into existing programmes:** Care for NCDs can be integrated into existing responses to other diseases, including HIV and tuberculosis, on account of both the synergies across these diseases in terms of their chronic nature and also the increasing burden and evidence of co-morbidities. There are also opportunities for prevention and control throughout the RMNCAH continuum. Such actions are furthermore recommended in the recent interim report of the WHO GCM/NCD Working Group on the inclusion of NCDs in other programmatic areas.
- 3. Elevate the need to address physical inactivity to the global level:** We highly commend Member States and the WHO Regional Office for prioritising physical inactivity. We now call for strong leadership to elevate this regional priority to the global level, including to take the necessary actions towards adoption of a resolution on Physical Activity at a future World Health Assembly. We also commend the work being done in the region to address NCD risk factors more widely, including the development of a Regional Strategic Plan to address the double burden of malnutrition.

We thank you for your attention and ensure you that the NCD Alliance and NCD civil society in the South East Asia region stand ready to work with Member States to ensure healthy lives and promote the well-being of all at all ages.

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The NCD Alliance is led by:

