



## 154<sup>th</sup> session of WHO's Executive Board (EB154) Constituency Statement: Agenda Item 6. Universal Health Coverage

Distinguished delegates,

We welcome the update following the UN High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage and note the recognition that global progress is not on track to achieve UHC by 2030 impacting the associated Sustainable Development Goal 3 targets, including those on NCDs and mental health, and on maternal and child health. We applaud the recommitment by countries in the 2023 Political Declaration to the principles and actions set forth at the High-Level Meeting in 2018 and increased references to NCDs.

However, the 2023 Political Declaration would have been strengthened by further commitments addressing the needs of people living with NCDs. For example, by recognizing them as a vulnerable population, recognizing their important role in the development and monitoring of policies for stronger governance, accountability, and by setting targets for investment in health.

We urge Member States to prioritize issues critical to achieving both UHC and NCD SDG targets and build momentum for greater progress at the 2025 High-level Meeting on NCDs and the 2027 High-level Meeting on UHC, particularly:

- Invest in the prevention and control of NCDs through adequate, predictable, and sustained resources for UHC.
- Accelerate UHC implementation by including quality NCD services and products across the continuum of care (for prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care) in national UHC health benefit packages.
- Align NCDs with other global health priorities integrating service delivery to support patient-centered care and effective use of health systems to achieve UHC.

- Invest in data systems, including data disaggregation, to better monitor the implementation of NCD prevention and control to achieve agreed targets.
- Engage people living with NCDs to keep UHC people-centered.

The draft decision on social participation highlights the important role that empowered people and communities play in achieving UHC and urges governments to strengthen, institutionalise and sustain their meaningful and inclusive participation. We urge Member States to adopt this decision and strengthen its areas of action further through national and local implementation, including with dedicated monitoring frameworks.

Thank you.

**Statement coordinated by:**

- NCD Alliance (NCDA)

**Statement supported by:**

- Global Alliance for Tobacco Control (GATC), formerly the Framework Convention Alliance on Tobacco Control (FCA)
- HelpAge International (HelpAge)
- International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA)
- International Federation on Ageing (IFA)
- International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP)
- International Pharmaceutical Students Federation (IPSF)
- Multiple Sclerosis International Federation (MSIF)
- The International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP)
- The Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind – Sightsavers (Sightsavers)
- Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)
- World Cancer Research Fund International (WCRF International)
- Worldwide Hospice Palliative Care Alliance (WHPCA)