

Statement by Union for International Cancer Control and NCD Alliance
WHO AFRO Regional Meeting, 19-23 August 2016, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Agenda item 16: Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Significant progress has been made in the NCD response at the global level with the adoption of the WHO Global Action Plan 2013-2020 and the accompanying Global Monitoring Framework. However, progress in the African region has been slow and insufficient. The inclusion of a dedicated target on NCDs in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development highlights at once the threat NCDs pose to sustainable development, and the opportunity we have to reverse this epidemic through action at the national level. In order to leverage the 2030 Agenda for long-term health and well-being in the African region, we call on Member States to consider the following points:

- 1. Integrate NCDs Across National Policies and Frameworks:** We strongly support the call made in the report for health in all policies, and furthermore recommend that NCD prevention and control be prioritized in each Member State's national development plan, coordination mechanism, and monitoring and evaluation framework. Achievement of the NCD targets demands action well beyond the health sector. NCD risk factors and their underlying social determinants are driven by sectors as broad as agriculture, urban planning, energy, trade, and education. Therefore, a multisectoral approach that recognizes the need for policy coherence across economic, social, and environmental policy areas and the resultant co-benefits reaped by sectors outside of health is critical.
- 2. Ensure adequate and sustainable domestic resources for NCDs:** As recommended by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, governments must increase domestic resources from both public and private sources for health, and specifically NCDs. One such method is through taxation of tobacco and other products known to increase NCD risk, such as sugar sweetened beverages. Taxation offers a win-win solution by increasing domestic resources for health, while simultaneously decreasing consumption. We congratulate South Africa for proposing an ambitious 20% tax on sugar sweetened beverages to come into effect in 2017.
- 3. Strengthen health systems through an integrated response across diseases:** In the same way as health must be integrated across national policies and frameworks, different diseases must no longer be siloed within the health system response. Opportunities to address NCDs exist across the lifecourse, including integration with the RMNCAH agenda and care for chronic infectious diseases such as HIV and TB.
- 4. Build comprehensive health information systems:** Data collection is essential for ensuring accountability on targets within the new SDG on health. Crucially, data disaggregated by age, sex, income and ethnicity must be gathered to inform an effective response.

Finally, we commend WHO AFRO for developing a regional framework for NCD prevention and control, and for convening NCD civil society in Mauritius this October. Civil society is uniquely placed to support governments in the NCD response and we look forward to working with WHO AFRO and Member States to avert the very real and serious threat that NCDs pose to our societies.

The NCD Alliance is led by:



International
Diabetes
Federation



International Union Against
Tuberculosis and Lung Disease

