



Statement by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) and NCD Alliance 67th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific

Agenda item 13: Sustainable Development Goals

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver this statement on behalf of the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) and NCD Alliance.

The inclusion of NCDs in Agenda 2030 highlights the threat NCDs pose to sustainable development and the opportunity to reverse this epidemic. To achieve this, we call on Member States to:

- Integrate NCDs into national policies beyond health and develop multisectoral NCD plans
- Ensure sustainable domestic resources for NCDs, including through taxation of tobacco and alcohol to simultaneously prevent NCDs and raise funds for investment in health systems
- Strengthen monitoring and surveillance systems
- Ensure high level representation at COP7, where a critical issue to be considered is how to step up tobacco control at country level.

Reducing mortality from high impact cancers will be critical for reaching the 2025 target of reducing premature mortality from NCDs by 25%. In this regard, UICC would also like to draw attention to a call made by several Member States at a side event at the 69th World Health Assembly for an update to the 2005 Cancer Resolution articulating a clear framework for a stepwise health systems response for cancer, building on existing services, and harnessing synergies through integration with other health services.

In particular, an updated cancer resolution would allow for integration with WHO strategies on child and maternal health, life course and aging, as well as consolidating recently adopted Resolutions on palliative care, access to surgery, and essential medicines, and emerging efforts towards UHC, which has been identified as a key priority in the Region.

With support from the Ministry of Health of Malaysia, among others, a proposal has been sent for this to be tabled as an agenda item at the 140th Meeting of the Executive Board. We very much hope this effort will have the support of the Region.

We remain committed to supporting Member States in their cancer and wider NCD prevention and control efforts.