



Statement at the 71st World Health Assembly
Agenda Item 11.7: Preparation for the third High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the
Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, to be held in 2018

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I make this statement on behalf of ADI, supported by the NCD Alliance.

NCDs, including mental and neurological conditions, are the social justice issue of our time and a threat to sustainable development worldwide. The report highlights that progress on NCDs at the national level remains inadequate. WHO's newly-launched investment case '**Saving lives, spending less**', shows a 15% reduction in premature NCD mortality by 2030 could be achieved at a cost of just **\$1.27 per person per year in LMICs**. Despite being identified by Member States as the highest priority for technical cooperation at country level, only 70% of the sum allocated to NCDs in WHO's 2016-17 budget was mobilised.

The report notes that the 2018 UN HLM on NCDs 'will provide the **last opportunity** for Member States to affirm their strong political commitment and reinforce action'. We call on countries to prioritise the **2018 UN HLM on NCDs and its preparatory process** through political and technical provisions to ensure:

1. **Participation of heads of state and government**, as outlined in the draft resolution, reflecting appropriate attention on NCDs as a major threat to human health and development requiring urgent high-level action;
2. **Political mobilisation across health and relevant non-health sectors and meaningful engagement of people living with NCDs and civil society** to reinforce a whole of government and whole of society approach;
3. **An action-oriented outcome document with bold commitments for all relevant sectors**, namely to put people first, increase financial investment, address childhood obesity, adopt health-promoting fiscal policies, accelerate achievement of UHC, and improve accountability.

Finally, **we call on Member States to participate in the interactive civil society hearing in advance of the UN HLM, scheduled for 5 July**. This crucial preparatory meeting is an opportunity for Member States to hear the priorities of, and strengthen engagement with civil society and other stakeholders.

Thank you.