



Statement to 71st WHO World Health Assembly
Agenda item 12.2 ([A71/18](#) and [EB142/2018/REC/1](#), Resolution [EB142.R5](#))
[Physical activity for Health](#)

This statement is delivered by World Cancer Research Fund International, supported by NCD Alliance, International Society for Physical Activity & Health, World Obesity Federation & Union for International Cancer Control.

We welcome the report and support its associated resolution. The Global Action Plan on Physical Activity comes at a crucial time, with Member States preparing for the third UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs. Policies that promote physical activity are win-win, concurrently realising health and broader benefits to cities, environment, and communities especially in relation to reducing urban air pollution in rapidly urbanising cities in LMICs. With countries needing to step up efforts to achieve the 2025 and 2030 NCD prevention and Sustainable Development Goals, we welcome GAPPAs target of a 15% relative reduction in inactivity, also embedded in WHO's 13th GPW.

This target requires continuous updating of evidence, capacity building, collaboration, co-investment, and commitment. Further, we welcome the forthcoming M&E framework that will guide and hold stakeholders accountable for implementation, as well as providing a platform for analysing and benchmarking examples of implemented policy actions worldwide.

While updating the guidelines for youth and adult physical activity is important, this should not distract from focusing on policies that promote physical activity across the full life-course, including young children.

In light of chronically inadequate human and financial resourcing for NCD prevention measures, including physical activity promotion, particularly in LMICs, we welcome GAPPAs recommendation to strengthen financing mechanisms. However, we urge caution around partnerships with food, beverage, alcohol and gaming industries, where conflicts of interest undermine health.

The commitment and leadership of Thailand and South East Asia Member States to promote physical activity is commendable, and we urge other countries to increase such initiatives in the lead up to the third UNHLM on NCDs in September.

As civil society, we stand ready to support the successful implementation of GAPPAs.