

**Statement by the World Heart Federation on behalf of the NCD Alliance**  
**68<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly Agenda Item 13.3 Update on the Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity**

Honourable Chair, distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the NCD Alliance, the World Heart Federation welcomes the opportunity to comment on this report. We note with concern that, by 2025, the number of overweight/obese children is expected to increase to 70 million.

Given the immensity of this issue – and the significant barriers of private sector resistance, industry influence, socio-cultural feeding norms, government apathy and lack of capacity – we wish to draw attention to four points that could strengthen the report:

1. More emphasis should be placed on the world's most vulnerable children: those living in LMICS, or those living with disabilities. Children across the world live with non-communicable diseases that can prevent physical activity and lead to childhood obesity, including: asthma, sickle-cell, and rheumatic heart disease. Specific policy options need to be implemented to support these highly vulnerable populations.
2. The health risks of childhood obesity across the life course can be analysed further. The report already notes that childhood obesity links directly to adult obesity, which increases the risk of developing NCDs such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes and cancer. Conditions such as amenorrhea (which can be caused by overweight, as well as underweight) can affect a girl's sexual and reproductive health beyond early pubescence.
3. The report lacks concrete policy recommendations to address the role of urbanization in the development of obesity. While the report's recommendations of a multi-disciplinary approach are encouraging, the health sector should retain its leading role on this issue.
4. The report currently overlooks industry's direct role in promoting the current obesogenic environment. Instead, it should call for effective policy to manage conflicts of interest, which is part of the current WHO process to develop a framework for engagement with non-state actors.

We reaffirm our commitment to working with member states, the WHO and stakeholders to prevent and control childhood obesity.