Global Campaigns Update: International Women's Day, WHO informal consultations on the GAP, and High-level dialogue on health in post-2015

Dear members of the NCD Alliance network,

Happy International Women's Day

On International Women's Day (IWD), it is the time to celebrate and reflect on the contributions that women make, and take stock on what more needs to be done to advance the status of women worldwide and achieve gender equality.

NCDs are the leading cause of death in women, killing a staggering 14 million women each year globally. NCDs are increasingly impacting on women in developing countries, and during the prime of their life. Improving women's health is improving the outcomes of development for countries. To mark IWD, we have showcased the work of the NCD community on NCDs and women on our website.

WHO Informal Consultations on the Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020

WHO convened a series of informal consultations this week on the revised Global Action Plan (GAP). On the 6th March, over 20 NGOs – including the NCD Alliance and many of our network members – attended the NGO consultation in Geneva; and selected private sector entities met on the 7th March.

The NGO consultation was an informal and constructive dialogue on the GAP and the related Global Monitoring Framework (GMF) and Global Coordination Mechanism (GCM). During proceedings, the NCD Alliance made many interventions – reinforcing our main messages from our advocacy hand out. We received further detail on WHO's proposed reporting cycle for NCDs, including the 2013 UN Secretary General Progress Report on NCDs and the 2014 comprehensive review and assessment. To read our informal summary notes of the consultation, click here. To access the WHO official papers for the consultation, click here.

Next week, on the 11th-13th of March, is the Member State informal consultation. We are hopeful that NGOs will be able to observe this consultation. The NCD Alliance will be present and visible, and we hope others in our network are able to join us.

In addition, we strongly encourage our network to submit comments to the online consultation on the GAP before 10 March (email ncdactionplan@who.int). If you are considering developing a submission to WHO, you are welcome to draw from the NCD Alliance submission as you see fit. Please do share your submissions with the NCD Alliance (info@ncdalliance.org), and we will promote them on our website.

Outcomes of the UN High-Level Dialogue in Botswana

The global thematic consultation on health in post-2015 culminated in a High-Level Dialogue in Botswana on March 5-6th. Around 40 high-level participants and experts joined the discussion, including government representatives, UN agencies, opinion leaders, NGOs, and members of the UN High Level Panel. The NCD community was represented by Dr Srinath Reddy, President of the World Heart Federation and Dr Sania Nishtar, President of Heartfile. Ahead of the consultation, the NCD Alliance shared with them a briefing highlighting on our key asks.

Throughout the 2-day meeting, there was strong agreement that new health goals and targets would need to be measurable, time-bound and outcome focused. NCDs featured high on the agenda, with appetite for incorporating and adapting the NCD "25 by 25" mortality target. In addition, there was

an understanding that health targets and indicators should be embedded across the other dimensions of the development framework.

The discussion and recommendations made during the two-day meeting will be put forth in a final report to the UN High-Level Panel at the end of March. The report will be made available on the World We Want platform.

Thank you,

The NCD Alliance