

His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York, NY 10017

19 September 2012

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

Exactly one year ago, world leaders, policymakers, and civil society gathered at United Nations Headquarters for the High-level Meeting (HLM) on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). The HLM, including the adoption of the Political Declaration on the Prevention and Control of NCDs, was a watershed moment in the history of global health and development and for the UN system. For the first time, the magnitude and impact of the global NCD epidemic was given due attention, with unprecedented commitments made by all stakeholders to improve the health and wellbeing of all people at risk and affected, everywhere.

#### **Progress Since the HLM**

The NCD Alliance, a global advocacy organization uniting four international federations and a network of over 2,000 civil society organisations in more than 170 countries, was a critical partner to the UN in ensuring a successful HLM. Now, on the first anniversary of the HLM, we wish to thank you for the continued attention and action the UN system is directing to reducing exposure to NCD risk factors, improving the social, economic, and environmental conditions that drive NCDs, and ensuring access to quality-assured treatment for those affected.

Under the direction of Director General Dr. Margaret Chan, the World Health Organization (WHO) has led a thorough consultation to fulfil their mandate to deliver a framework for action on NCDs at the global level. To this end, we wish to note the unprecedented adoption by WHO Member States of a target to reduce premature mortality from NCDs by 25% by the year 2025 at the World Health Assembly in May 2012. We welcome this target as a major breakthrough, with UN Member States signing up to the vision of millions fewer people suffering avoidable illness, disability and death from these diseases. We look forward to Member States now agreeing the detail of a global monitoring framework underpinned by an ambitious set of targets and indicators to drive progress towards this “25 by 25” goal.

The past year has also seen unprecedented attention to NCDs beyond the health sector, with increasing recognition that these diseases, and health more broadly, are fundamentally a human development issue. The Rio+20 Outcome Document, *The Future We Want*, affirms NCDs as “one of the major challenges for sustainable development in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”<sup>1</sup> And recognizing that the UN system response to NCDs cannot be limited to a health-specific approach, Dr. Chan and Ms. Helen Clark, Administrator of UNDP, issued a joint letter in March 2012 to UN Country Teams, advising the incorporation of NCDs into UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs). These milestones are just that, and cause for celebration of forward momentum.

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<sup>1</sup> *The Future We Want*. UN Conference on Sustainable Development Outcome Document. Paragraph 141.

**The NCD Alliance was founded by:**



**International  
Diabetes  
Federation**



**International Union Against  
Tuberculosis and Lung Disease**  
*Health solutions for the poor*



**WORLD HEART  
FEDERATION®**

# The NCD Alliance

Putting non-communicable diseases  
on the global agenda

## The Work Ahead

While we note the progress made thus far, much work remains to ensure an adequate global response to NCDs. Public sector, private sector, and citizens all over the world must unite in partnership to create a healthy future, free from undue suffering caused by NCDs.

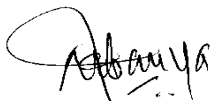
We do not wish to pre-judge the recommendations contained in your forthcoming report on options for strengthening and facilitating multisectoral action for the prevention and control of NCDs, and we pledge to work within the parameters set forward within the report. However, we do wish to emphasize that our longstanding position has been to support the establishment of a global coordinating platform for NCDs. Led by Member States and UN agencies, civil society and the private sector, this platform would facilitate a renewed multisectoral movement for NCDs. With appropriate safeguards against vested interests, it should have the responsibility to fully support the Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020 currently under development and coordinate action between key sectors and partners.

## Our Commitment

We will not turn the tide on NCDs by continuing the same fragmented and piecemeal approach used in the past – it's time to work together in a renewed global effort. As leaders of the civil society response to NCDs, we pledge our full commitment to continuing to lead civil society action, as well as support other stakeholders as best we can and as appropriate.

Mr. Secretary-General, please be assured of our highest consideration and continued support in all endeavours going forward.

Sincerely,



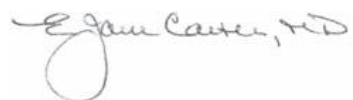
Prof Jean-Claude Mbanya, MD; PhD; FRP  
President, International Diabetes Federation  
UN Civil Society Taskforce for the HLM on NCDs



Prof Sidney C. Smith, Jr. MD; FACC; FAHA; FESC  
President, World Heart Federation



Professor Mary Gospodarowicz  
President, Union for International Cancer Control



Dr E. Jane Carter, MD  
President, International Union Against Tuberculosis  
and Lung Disease

cc:

Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General, World Health Organization

Dr Oleg Chestnov, Assistant Director-General, Non-communicable Diseases and Mental Health, World Health Organization

The NCD Alliance was founded by:

