

NCD Alliance Statement WHO EURO Regional Meeting, 14–17 September 2015, Vilnius, Lithuania

Statement under Agenda item 5a: Promoting intersectoral and interagency action for health and well-being in the WHO European Region: Health in Sustainable Development and Foreign Policy

Statement of the Framework Convention Alliance and the NCD Alliance, a global civil society network of over 2,000 organizations working together to elevate non-communicable diseases on the global development agenda.

Significant progress has been made in the NCD response at global and regional level, with adoption of a strong Global NCD Framework, and a new European NCD Action Plan under development. NCDs manifest themselves in the health sector but originate in sectors as broad as trade, education, transport, agriculture, and finance, and as such exert an absolute requirement for collaboration across sectors. Clear calls for intersectoral action are made in the WHO Global Action Plan 2013-2020 and the Outcome Document of the 2014 UN Review on NCDs, and the progress elicited by the UN Interagency Task Force on NCDs is to be commended. The inclusion of NCDs under the health goal of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be adopted later this month highlights at once the threat NCDs pose to sustainable development and the opportunity we have to reverse this epidemic. At this pivotal moment for health and sustainable development, we call on WHO EURO Member States to consider the following points:

- 1. Develop and implement multisectoral national NCD plans and targets:** According to the 2014 WHO Country Profiles 75% of EURO countries do not have an operational NCD plan. We urge Member States to keep to their commitments made at the 2014 UN Review on NCDs and urgently develop and cost multisectoral NCD plans.
- 2. Prioritise NCDs in regional and national development plans and frameworks.** Governments in EURO should give NCDs greater priority in their national development plans and frameworks. The incorporation of NCDs into national development plans should be informed by the WHO Global NCD Action Plan and national NCD plans and will require strategic collaboration between the health and development sectors.
- 3. Ensure adequate and sustainable domestic resources for NCDs:** As recommended by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Governments must strengthen efforts to raise domestic resources for health and NCDs. One such method is through tobacco taxes, which offer a win-win solution by increasing domestic resources for health, while simultaneously decreasing consumption.
- 4. Improve tracking of official development assistance (ODA) for NCDs:** The way that ODA for health is tracked and reported is severely inadequate for NCDs. We urge Member States to uphold their commitment made at the 2014 UN Review on NCDs and support the development of a purpose code for NCDs in OECDs Creditor Reporting System (CRS).
- 5. Strengthen international cooperation and coordination:** There is a great range and depth of expertise across European Member States and opportunities must be made to permit sharing of knowledge, experience and best practices, especially regarding collaboration across sectors.

We thank you for your attention and ensure you that the NCD Alliance stands ready to work with Member States to support intersectoral and interagency action to ensure healthy lives and promote the well-being of all at all ages.

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The NCD Alliance is led by:



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

