

NCD Alliance Statement, WHO EMRO Regional Committee Meeting, 19-22 October, Tunis, Tunisia

Statement under Agenda item 5(a): *Noncommunicable diseases: Implementation of the Political Declaration of the United Nations General Assembly, and follow-up on the UN Review Meeting in July 2014*

Statement by the World Heart Federation on behalf of 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.

The NCD Alliance commends Member States and WHO for concluding the work on the global architecture for NCDs at the 67th World Health Assembly. With the adoption of the Global Monitoring Framework, the Global NCD Action Plan, and the Global Coordination Mechanism, the three pillars of the global NCD architecture – accountability, action, and coordination – are now in place.

Furthermore, we commend Member States for adopting a concise, action-oriented Outcome Document at the UN NCD Review and Assessment in New York in July. The UN Review signals an important shift from a global dialogue to national action and implementation. The Outcome Document includes specific, time-bound commitments that will effectively guide the next phase of the global, regional and national NCD response.

We applaud EMRO Member States and WHO for recognizing NCDs as a regional priority; for development of the regional framework for action on NCDs, and for the progress made in implementing the framework. Drawing upon this framework, we particularly call on Member States to:

- 1) With regard to governance; by 2014 establish a high-level national multisectoral commission, agency, or committee, created with a whole of government, whole of society approach, and with active civil society participation; and by 2015 to establish a multisectoral strategy or plan and a set of national targets and indicators for 2025, based on national situation and WHO guidance;
- 2) Furthermore, by 2015 to increase and prioritize budgetary allocations for NCDs and implement viable financing mechanisms based on taxation of tobacco, alcohol, and other unhealthy products. Larger budgetary allocations for NCDs are urgently needed to reverse the huge disease and economic burden NCDs place on the region;
- 3) Establish a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation mechanism for NCDs with annual reporting by Member States in the lead up to to the next review meeting at the General Assembly in 2018, to motivate stronger action by all stakeholders in the NCD response, and ensure implementation of commitments made by EMRO Member States;
- 4) Enhance the capacity of NCD civil society in the region. Civil society organisations are invaluable partners to governments and important actors in both accelerating national and regional action to curb the NCD epidemic.

Finally, with less than 500 days until the expiry of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), we call on Member States to prioritize and actively champion the inclusion of NCDs in the post-2015 development agenda. Building on the final Outcome Document of the Open Working Group, we call on Member States to support an overarching outcome-focused health goal of ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages, a standalone target to reduce NCD mortality by 40% by 2030, and health sensitive indicators across all dimensions of the post-2015 agenda.

We thank you for your consideration of these actions, and offer our full support in the next phase of our collective actions to improve the health and wellbeing of all people, everywhere.

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