

NCD Alliance Statement

WHO PAHO Regional Committee Meeting, 29 September – 3 October, Washington, D.C.

Statement under Agenda item 8.4: Report on the United Nations General Assembly High-level Meeting on the Progress Achieved in the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases

Statement 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 their leadership in the development of 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 Member States and WHO for stepping up efforts in implementing the PAHO Strategy and Plan of Action on NCDs 2013–2019 and recognizing NCDs as a regional priority. Building on these efforts we call on Member States to:

- 1) Fully implement all commitments in the UN NCD Review Outcome Document, including developing national NCD targets and costed, national multisectoral plans by 2015, and integrating NCDs into national development agendas;
- 2) Establish national NCD multisectoral mechanisms, such as commissions, agencies, or task forces, to ensure policy integration, coherence, and implementation, as well as accountability. These mechanisms should be created with whole-of-government, whole-of-society, people-centered approaches, and active civil society participation;
- 3) Scale up cost-effective interventions to reduce exposure to risk factors for NCDs and implement actions within national health systems directed at increasing coverage and quality of care for people with NCDs throughout the lifecycle;
- 4) Increase the provision of adequate and sustained domestic, regional and international resources allocated to NCDs and health systems strengthening. Larger budgetary allocations from domestic, bilateral, regional and multilateral channels for NCDs is urgently needed, and will further strengthen the NCD response;
- 5) Enhance the capacity of NCD civil society in the region. Civil society organisations in PAHO are already proving to be invaluable partners in both accelerating domestic and regional action, and more and more national NCD Alliances are coming together to support governments in the region.

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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