

NCD Alliance Statement WHO WPRO Regional Meeting, 12-16 October, Guam, USA

Statement under Agenda item 14.5: NCD Prevention and Control

Statement on behalf of the NCD Alliance, a global civil society network of over 2,000 organizations working together to elevate noncommunicable diseases on the global development agenda.

In recent years, significant progress has been made in the NCD response at global and regional level. The WHO Global Action Plan 2013-2020 and accompanying Global Monitoring Framework were agreed and have been translated into a Regional Action Plan for NCD prevention and control in the Western Pacific Region. We commend WHO and WPRO Member States for the progress made in improving country capacity, reducing modifiable risk factors for NCDs, strengthening health systems, and in monitoring and evaluation.

The inclusion of NCDs under the health goal of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted three weeks ago in New York 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 WPRO Member States to consider the following points:

- 1. Develop and implement multisectoral national NCD plans, targets and commissions:** We commend the progress made in the development of national NCD multisectoral action plans or strategies in six Member States. However, currently more than two thirds of the WPR countries listed in the WHO NCD Country Profiles 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, cost, and implement multisectoral NCD plans.
- 2. Prioritise NCDs in regional and national development plans and frameworks.** Now that NCDs are included in the SDGs at global level, we encourage governments in WPR to 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 - where they exist - national NCD plans.
- 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 are a win-win, as they increase domestic resources for health, while simultaneously decreasing consumption.

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

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The NCD Alliance is led by:

