

NCD Alliance Statement WHO EMRO Regional Meeting, 5-8 October 2015, Kuwait

Statement under Agenda item 2d: Progress report on prevention and control of NCDs

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 framework for the EMR. This framework is to be commended in particular for the inclusion of process indicators which will serve to monitor country progress ahead of the 2018 UN Review on NCDs. We congratulate EMR countries on the progress made in the prevention and reduction of risk factors including tobacco control, salt, trans fats, physical activity, and the marketing of food and non-alcoholic beverages to children.

The inclusion of NCDs under the health goal of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted two 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 EMRO Member States to consider the following points:

- 1. Develop and implement multisectoral national NCD plans, targets and commissions:** While one third of countries across the EMR have initiated the development of multisectoral NCD action plans, only three countries have operational NCD plans. We commend the four countries which have set targets for 2025 based on WHO guidance. We now urge Member States to keep to their commitments made at the 2014 UN Review on NCDs and to develop costed multisectoral NCD plans to support progress, actively engaging NCD civil society in the process.
- 2. Prioritise NCDs in regional and national development plans and frameworks.** Now that NCDs are included in the SDGs at global level, governments in EMR 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 - 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 furthermore commend WHO EMRO for its commitment to strengthening NCD civil society in the EMR. Civil society is uniquely placed to support governments in the NCD response, but CSO capacities are generally weak in the region. On 1-2 September 2015, the NCD Alliance and WHO therefore jointly convened a meeting to strengthen NCD Civil Society Organizations and to foster greater regional collaboration. A comprehensive report of the meeting is available to Member States.

We thank you for your attention and assure you that the NCD Alliance stands ready to work with WHO and 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:

