

NCD Alliance Statement WHO SEARO Regional Meeting, 7-11 September 2015, Dili, Timor-Leste.

Statement on NCDs in Sustainable Development

Statement on behalf of the Union for International Cancer Control and 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 and ten targets for the South East Asia Region. The inclusion of NCDs under the health goal of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be adopted later this month 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 SEARO Member States to consider the following points:

- 1. Develop and implement multisectoral national NCD plans, targets and commissions:** Currently 64% of SEARO 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.** Now that NCDs are included in the SDGs at global level, governments in SEAR 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 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:



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

