

**UN NCD Review Zero Draft Outcome Document, 15 June 2014:
NCD Alliance Analysis and Recommendations**

The NCD Alliance congratulates the co-facilitators on providing a comprehensive Zero Draft outcome document for the UN NCD Review, which reflects a broad array of priorities for future action on NCDs. This paper sets out the priority commitments that the NCD Alliance is requesting Member States consider for inclusion in the final Outcome Document.

This will be a fast-moving iterative process, as Member States negotiate the contents of the drafts. Please contact info@ncdalliance.org for further information and assistance.

An “action-oriented Outcome Document”

The modalities resolution for the UN Review commits Member States to agree on a “concise, focused, action-oriented Outcome Document”, which is drafted with input from the preparatory process and informal consultations. The priorities recommended by the NCD Alliance therefore draw heavily from language previously agreed by Member States, including the 2011 UN Political Declaration, WHO regional declarations; as well as gaps and priorities identified in the UN Secretary General Progress Report on NCDs.

Headline Points on the Zero Draft Outcome Document (OD):

- **Build upon the 2011 UN Political Declaration on NCDs:** The UN Review and the OD should build upon the global NCD response, articulated in the 2011 UN Political Declaration and the Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020. For this reason, the NCD Alliance recommends arranging the OD around similar sub-headings to the 2011 UN Political Declaration to ensure continuity and alignment in the NCD response.
- **Address the “unfinished business” in the NCD response:** The OD must focus on the challenges and gaps in the NCD response at all levels, committing to actions that will address the “unfinished business”. In the current OD, it is not clear what the unfinished business is. The NCD Alliance recommendations on pages 2-3 reflect our views on this, with a particular emphasis on NCDs in development cooperation and plans, accelerating progress on tobacco control and tobacco taxation, strengthening and integrating health systems, addressing the resource gap, and establishing strong monitoring mechanisms at the country level to ensure accountability.
- **Reinforce NCDs as a sustainable human development challenge:** The UN Review is a timely forum to promote the importance of NCDs in the post-2015 development agenda. The OD needs strengthening in this regard, with language upfront reaffirming the impact of NCDs on sustainable human development, and specific recommendations on NCD targets for the post-2015 development agenda.
- **Commit to bold, new commitments for action at the national level:** The UN Review is a significant opportunity to shift the NCD response from global to national action. This was the main message of the UN Secretary General’s Progress Report on NCDs. Currently, the OD is too heavily focused on global commitments (para 12-20), and too weak on national specific, time-bound and measurable national commitments (para 11). National commitments must be the centrepiece of the OD.
- **Avoid mixing technical and political:** The UN Review is a political meeting, therefore the OD should remain at the political level. It should not include detailed technical recommendations and interventions previously negotiated by Member States, including interventions outlined in Appendix 3 of the Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020 (para 4 and 5).
- **Ensure NCDs are discussed at future UN General Assemblies:** The OD must include the mandate to review and debate NCDs at future UN General Assemblies, with a view to identifying challenges and making recommendations on action needed to make further progress. This will ensure NCDs continue to be recognised at the highest political level and beyond a health issue.

Summary of NCD Alliance recommendations for Zero Draft Outcome Document:

NCDs & sustainable development:

- Recognize the impacts of NCDs (including cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, and mental and neurological disorders) on all dimensions of sustainable human development;
- Accelerate action to address the socio-economic determinants of NCDs, including through health in all policies and whole-of-government approaches;
- Recognise the special situation and vulnerability of small states and small island developing states (SIDS) in NCDs, and intensify efforts to reduce the significant inequalities in the burden of NCDs and the disproportionate impact on vulnerable populations, including women, children and indigenous populations;
- Prioritize NCDs in the post-2015 development agenda by considering the inclusion of a target on reducing the burden of NCDs and their risk factors, taking into account the agreed global target to reduce premature NCD mortality by 25% by 2025;

Leadership & governance:

- By 2015, develop national NCD targets for 2025, taking into account the nine global voluntary NCD targets and associated indicators, and national situations;
- By 2015, develop, cost and implement evidence-based national multisectoral NCD plans to achieve these targets, in line with national priorities;
- By 2015, establish functioning high-level national multisectoral NCD commissions or analogous bodies for the engagement, policy coherence and accountability of sectors beyond health;
- Integrate NCDs into health and development planning instruments, including National Development Plans, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), and UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs).

Prevention & risk factor exposure:

- By 2016, implement the very cost-effective and affordable interventions to reduce exposure to risk factors for NCDs, as outlined in Appendix 3 of the Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020;
- Accelerate implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), including by substantially increasing tobacco taxes, establishing national tobacco tax targets, and protecting policies from the vested interests of the tobacco industry;
- Implement fiscal policies to reduce exposure to unhealthy products that contribute to the growing NCD burden, particularly in low and middle-income countries.

Health systems:

- By 2016, implement the very cost-effective and affordable interventions to strengthen health systems, as outlined in Appendix 3 of the Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020;
- Strengthen national health systems, with an emphasis on integrated primary care and the lifecourse approach, delivering prevention, treatment and care, and prevent needless suffering for people living with NCDs;
- Acknowledge the importance of promoting patient empowerment, rehabilitation, and palliative care for persons of all ages with or at risk of developing NCDs;
- Accelerate the training and retention of health workers for NCDs, including appropriate building of basic education and pre and in-service training of NCD health care workers at all levels of the health service;
- Actively engage people living with NCDs in the global, regional, and national efforts to prevent and control NCDs;
- Recognize universal health coverage as a fundamental instrument to prevent and control NCDs across the continuum of care, particularly for the poorest and most vulnerable populations;
- Recognize that mental and neurological disorders, including Alzheimer's disease, are

an important cause of morbidity and contribute to the global NCD disease burden, requiring effective integrated prevention and health system interventions;

- Strengthen existing links between policies, programmes, and services for NCDs and communicable diseases, sexual, reproductive, maternal, and child health services, leveraging existing services as an entry point for NCD interventions;
- Ensure increased access to affordable, safe, effective, and quality-assured medicines, vaccines, and technologies for NCDs.

Monitoring & evaluation:

- By 2015, implement the WHO Framework for NCD Surveillance covering (i) monitoring of risk factors and determinants, including dementia; (ii) outcomes (mortality and morbidity), and (iii) health system response, as well as to integrate NCDs into the national health information systems;
- Establish clear and rigorous monitoring and evaluation mechanisms at the country level to ensure accountability of progress in the NCD response;
- Call upon WHO, with the full participation of Member States and in collaboration with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and other relevant regional and international organizations, as appropriate, to develop before the end of 2015, a set of process indicators capable of application at country level, to monitor progress made in the realisation of the Political Declaration.

International cooperation:

- Commit to reducing the global NCD resource gap through greater domestic and international funding, enabling countries to access adequate, predictable, and sustainable resources, and ensuring international funding is aligned with national priorities;
- Commit to inviting existing international financial institutions, according to its policy framework, and encourage other donors, to provide additional resources to low- and middle-income countries for the strengthening of NCD programmes and health systems and for addressing human resources gaps;
- Call upon the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to integrate a purpose code for NCDs into the Creditor Reporting System on official development assistance to facilitate tracking ODA in support of NCDs;
- Increase the provision of capacity-building assistance to NCD-related NGOs, alliances and networks at the national and regional levels, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, in order to realize their full potential as partners in the response;
- Urge the Global Coordination Mechanism on NCDs to start its work, with the meaningful participation of all relevant sectors and stakeholders;
- Reaffirm the leading role of civil society organizations, including academia, non-governmental organizations, the media, and relevant private sector in the NCD response, including in service delivery and implementation, while protecting from real, perceived, and potential conflicts of interest;
- Urge the UN Inter-Agency Task Force to continue and expand support for national efforts on NCDs through the development of joint programmes for NCDs.

Accountability:

- Call upon WHO, with the full participation of Member States, through the governing bodies of WHO, and in consultation with non-state actors, to develop a tool before the end of 2015 to measure the contribution of private sector and civil society to commitments made in the 2011 Political Declaration and the nine global NCD targets;
- Commit to hold a comprehensive UN High-Level Review on NCDs in 2017, and every four years thereafter;
- Decide to include in the provisional agenda of the 69th session of the UN General Assembly the item entitled “Implementation of the UN Political Declaration on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable diseases.”