

H.E. John Ashe  
President of the UN General Assembly

19 September 2013

Dear Excellency,

Exactly two years ago today, world leaders, policymakers, and civil society representatives gathered at United Nations Headquarters for the High-level Meeting (HLM) on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). Under the initiative and leadership of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the HLM was a watershed moment in the history of global health and development. With the adoption of the *Political Declaration on the Prevention and Control of NCDs*, for the first time Member States and the UN recognised the magnitude and impact of the global NCD epidemic and made unprecedented commitments to accelerate progress for all people at risk and affected by these diseases.

### **Progress Since the HLM**

The NCD Alliance, a global alliance uniting four international federations – the International Diabetes Federation, International Union Against TB and Lung Disease, Union for International Cancer Control, and World Heart Federation - and a network of over 2,000 civil society organisations in more than 170 countries was a vital partner to CARICOM, Member States and the UN in ensuring a successful HLM. Two years on, we wish to commend Member States and the UN system, notably the World Health Organization (WHO), on the fulfillment of many of the commitments in the UN Political Declaration.

Notable achievements since the HLM include:

- Adoption of the **WHO Global Monitoring Framework on NCDs**, including nine global targets to drive progress on NCDs, including the visionary goal to reduce deaths from NCDs by 25% by 2025;
- Adoption of the **WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020**, which will act as the roadmap for achieving the targets and developing cooperative action for all relevant partners;
- Agreement to establish a **Global Coordination Mechanism for NCDs**, which will coordinate activities of the UN, Member States, and non-state actors (including civil society);
- Establishment of the **UN Inter-agency Task Force on NCDs**, to leverage the capacity, expertise and resources of the entire UN System to combat NCDs;
- Recognition of NCDs as a priority for health and sustainable human development and a **necessary inclusion in the post-2015 development framework**.

### **Future Priorities**

These achievements over the last two years since the HLM reflect unparalleled commitment and action on NCDs. Now, together we must redouble our efforts to ensure these global targets, plans and mechanisms translate into action and change for the millions of people at risk or living with NCDs worldwide.

As the incoming President of the UN General Assembly, we urge you to use your term to continue the momentum on NCDs. The 68<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly provides a series of significant opportunities to. Specifically, we ask you to prioritise the 2014 **comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of NCDs**.

This 2014 NCD review will provide a significant opportunity for stocktaking on progress in implementing the Political Declaration, including sharing successes, lessons learned, challenges and opportunities, and recommendations to guide the NCD response beyond 2014. Drawing upon the UN review process for HIV/AIDS and the success of the HLM for NCDs, the NCD Alliance wishes to request your consideration of the following arrangements for the 2014 review:

- Ensure the meeting is **high-level**, so as to encourage the participation of Heads of State and Government;
- Ensure the meeting takes place in **September 2014**, in the margins of the opening of the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly;
- Ensure the meeting is **two days in length**, in order to provide adequate time for discussion and debate;
- Establish a **Civil Society Task Force**, to assist in preparations for an informal interactive **civil society hearing** ahead of the meeting, and maximising civil society input to the review itself;
- **Provide for the formal inclusion of civil society in the review**, and in all preparatory consultations leading up to September 2014;
- **Result in a concise and action-oriented political declaration** that reaffirms and builds on the 2011 Political Declaration to guide and monitor the NCD response beyond 2014, giving due consideration to the report of the Secretary General on NCDs expected at the end of 2013.

In addition, we encourage you to use your term to ensure the promotion of NCDs as a global health and development priority in the ongoing dialogue on the post-2015 development agenda, including within the context of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.

#### Our Commitment

Your Excellency, please be assured of our support and highest consideration. During the last four years, the NCD Alliance and our global network of 2,000 organisations has been a significant partner to Member States and the UN, including co-chairing the UN Civil Society Task Force for the 2011 HLM, supporting a successful civil society hearing in June 2011, and working with WHO and the UN to ensure successful outcomes from the follow-up consultation processes on NCDs. We now look forward to working with you towards a successful UN review and assessment for NCDs in September 2014.

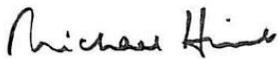
Sincerely,



Professor Mary Gospodarowicz  
President, Union for International Cancer Control



Dr E. Jane Carter  
President, International Union Against TB and Lung Disease



Sir Michael Hirst  
President, International Diabetes Federation



Professor Srinath Reddy  
President, World Heart Federation

#### CC:

Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General, World Health Organization (WHO)

Dr Oleg Chestnov, Assistant Director-General, Non-communicable Diseases and Mental Health, World Health Organization (WHO)

**The NCD Alliance was founded by:**

