

The NCD Alliance

Putting non-communicable diseases
on the global agenda

NCD Alliance Statement

67th WHO SEARO Regional Meeting, 10-12 September 2014, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Statement under Agenda item 9.9: Progress report on regional action plan and targets for prevention and control of NCDs 2013-2020

Statement by the Union for International Cancer Control and the NCD Alliance, a global civil society network of over 2,000 organizations working together to elevate non-communicable diseases on the global development agenda.

The NCD Alliance commends Member States and WHO for concluding the work on the global architecture for NCDs at the 67th World Health Assembly. Together, the Global Coordination Mechanism for NCDs, the Global Monitoring Framework, and the Global NCD Action Plan, reinforce the three pillars of the global NCD architecture – accountability, action, and coordination.

Furthermore, we commend Member States for adopting a concise, action-oriented Outcome Document at the UN NCD Review and Assessment in New York in July, signalling an important shift from global dialogue to national action and implementation. The Outcome Document includes specific, time-bound commitments to effectively guide the next phase of the global, regional and national NCD response.

We applaud SEARO Member States and WHO for stepping up efforts in implementing the Regional NCD Action Plan 2013–2020 and recognizing NCDs as a regional priority. Building on these efforts we call on Member States to:

- 1) Fully implement all commitments in the UN NCD Review Outcome Document, including developing national NCD targets and costed, national multisectoral plans by 2015;
- 2) Establish national NCD multisectoral mechanisms, such as commissions, agencies, or task forces, to ensure policy integration, coherence, and implementation, as well as accountability. These mechanisms should be created with whole-of-government, whole-of-society, people-centered approaches, and active civil society participation;
- 3) Scale up cost-effective interventions to reduce exposure to risk factors for NCDs and strengthen primary health-care systems for early detection and management of those affected by NCDs;
- 4) Increase the allocation of adequate and sustained domestic and regional resources for NCDs and develop innovative financing mechanisms to increase resources for NCDs and health systems strengthening;
- 5) Continue to enhance the capacity of NCD civil society in the region. Civil society organisations in SEARO are already proving to be invaluable partners in both accelerating domestic and regional action, and national and regional NCD Alliances are coming together to support governments in the region.

Finally, with less than 500 days until the expiry of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), we call on Member States to actively prioritize the inclusion of NCDs in the post-2015 development agenda. Building on the final Outcome Document of the Open Working Group, we call on Member States to support an overarching outcome-focused health goal of ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages, a standalone target to reduce NCD mortality by 40% by 2030, and health sensitive indicators across all dimensions of the post-2015 agenda.

We thank you for your consideration of these actions, and offer our full support in the next phase of our collective actions to improve health and wellbeing of all people, everywhere.

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