

The importance of building political momentum and strong leadership to prevent cancer and other NCDs

Statement following the Global Conference on Non-Communicable Diseases (October 2017)

World Cancer Research Fund International was delighted to be present at last week's [Global Conference on NCDs](#) hosted in Montevideo by the President of Uruguay. The focus was on enhancing policy coherence to prevent and control non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and was attended by the WHO, governments from around the world and civil society. During the conference, policymakers endorsed the '[Montevideo Roadmap 2018–2030](#)', which sets out the intention of governments to pursue policy coherence to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 3.4 – by 2030 reduce by one-third pre-mature mortality from NCDs.

Significant and intensified action is needed to respond to the global epidemic of NCDs. Lack of policy coherence, along with lack of financing for NCDs, are major barriers to progress at global and national levels. To improve policy coherence, governments must address the social, economic, commercial and environmental determinants of NCDs.

The conference comes at a critical juncture with the forthcoming third High-level Meeting on NCDs due to take place in 2018 at the UN General Assembly. Strong and committed political leadership is vital and there is an urgency, as well as opportunity, for political leaders with a positive and respected influence to help prevent cancer and other NCDs. In this regard, World Cancer Research Fund International welcomes the rescindment of President Robert Mugabe as WHO Goodwill Ambassador for NCDs in Africa, following the [statement](#) by WHO Director-General Dr Tedros on 22 October.

We urge attendance and commitments from Heads of Government and State representatives for the third High-level Meeting on NCDs, and to support WHO's programme of work to make critical progress in accelerating national action on NCDs.

Our NOURISHING framework and policy database contains 450 implemented government policy actions from 129 countries and more than 90 evaluations, including actions taken by governments to promote policy coherence and multi-sectoral action to prevent and control cancer and other NCDs.

www.wcrf.org/NOURISHING