Statement to the 71st World Health Assembly
Agenda item 11.7 (A71/14 and A71/14 Add. 1)
Preparation for the third High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention
and Control of non-communicable Diseases

Thank you for the opportunity to present this statement on behalf of World Cancer Research Fund International.

We support the statements made by UICC and NCD Alliance, in particular calling on Heads of State and Government to participate in the UNHLM in September, as well as to ensure country representation at the interactive hearing in advance of the UNHLM in July.

The report by the Director-General highlights several initiatives and outputs which may serve as input into the preparatory process. In this regard, we are pleased to announce the launch of our Third Expert Report entitled ‘Diet, Nutrition, Physical Activity and Cancer: A Global Perspective’ on 24 May 2018. The report includes updated Cancer Prevention Recommendations, which provide a blueprint for the prevention of cancer and other NCDs and informs policy action to reach the Global NCD targets by 2025 and SDGs by 2030.

The Third Expert Report emphasises the importance of the primary prevention of cancer in tackling the NCD epidemic and helps to fill the research gap to improve the evidence base for cancer prevention and control, as called for in the 2017 Cancer Resolution.

Furthermore, as part of the preparations, WCRF International’s forthcoming evidence series, Building Momentum, will support Member States in developing and implementing key policy actions to promote healthy diets and prevent overweight and obesity. The reports will include lessons learned and successful approaches to overcoming challenges in the implementation of Appendix III ‘best buys’.

We look forward to supporting Member States in their preparations for the UNHLM and in their ongoing efforts to prevent and control cancer and other NCDs.