

This statement is made by World Cancer Research Fund International, a leading independent global authority on the links between diet, weight, physical activity and cancer prevention and survival.

Our latest Cancer Prevention Report, ***Diet, Nutrition, Physical Activity and Cancer: a Global Perspective***, outlines our analysis over the past ten years of the latest scientific independent research, and includes updated Cancer Prevention Recommendations. Our findings show that being overweight or obese increases the risk of 12 common cancers – five more than the evidence showed ten years ago.

For more information: www.dietandcancerreport.org

As such, in preparation for this interactive hearing and the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of NCDs we launched our first report in our new evidence series¹: ***Building Momentum: lessons on implementing a robust sugar sweetened beverage tax.***

We believe that developing and implementing evidence-informed nutrition policies is essential to tackle the growing burden caused by diet-related NCDs such as cancer, heart disease and diabetes. The first report in our series equips policymakers with overarching guidance on how to design a robust SSB tax that will help overcome challenges caused by lack of political will and industry interference, as well as mitigate the risk of lawsuits and trade disputes. For more information: www.wcrf.org/buildingmomentum

The draft Political Declaration outlines the importance of sharing information on the ‘successes and challenges related to the implementation of national policies and programmes to prevent and control NCDs, in order to build the global evidence base on best practices and lessons learned to promote informed action’. We believe that our report, as part of our new evidence series, is a timely and relevant document for this purpose.

SSB taxes are a vital part of a comprehensive approach to promote healthy diets and prevent overweight and obesity. Our **NOURISHING framework** outlines ten areas where governments need to take action and its underpinning policy database contains 500 implemented government policy actions, including SSB taxes, across 130 countries, and includes 100 evaluations.

For more information: www.wcrf.org/NOURISHING

We call for:

- **Heads of State and Government to attend the third UNHLM on NCDs;**
- **The development and implementation of evidence-informed nutrition policies, including WHO’s Best Buys and other cost-effective recommendations - including fiscal policies and SSB taxes;**
- **Robust governance mechanisms to prevent and manage conflicts of interest when engaging in public-private partnerships – private sector involvement must be limited to the implementation stage of the policy process.**

The latter two points should be reflected in the final Political Declaration as an outcome of the third UNHLM on NCDs and we urge Member States to ensure their inclusion.

¹ Future reports in the Building Momentum evidence series will focus on front of pack labelling, marketing to children, and public procurement.