



**Statement by World Cancer Research Fund International to the 140<sup>th</sup> session  
of the World Health Organization's Executive Board:  
Agenda item 10.5 / EB140/31**

World Cancer Research Fund International welcomes the timely draft cancer resolution and the WHO Secretariat report on Cancer prevention and control in the context of an integrated approach, which aligns with WHA commitments on non-communicable diseases and the SDGs.

We welcome the recognition to improve cancer research to promote the evidence base for cancer prevention and control. Our analysis of worldwide research shows that being overweight or obese is linked to an increased risk of 11 cancers, and that being an unhealthy weight is the second biggest preventable cause of cancer after smoking. We estimate that around one third of the most common cancers could be prevented through a healthier lifestyle and diet.

We therefore urge the inclusion of more specific language in the draft resolution on the importance of healthy lifestyles in the prevention of cancer, as recognised in the WHO Secretariat report. In particular, we strongly believe that the language in the resolution can be strengthened by calling for increased taxes on 'unhealthy commodities', and not just tobacco and alcohol. In this regard, it is also critical to recognise the importance of preventing all industry interference, including food and drink companies, in public health policy making.

In addition, we believe that the draft resolution can be strengthened by highlighting the importance of feasibility, health equity and overall effectiveness, alongside considerations of cost-effectiveness when implementing national cancer prevention and control policies and plans.

Finally, we welcome the call for the Director-General to develop a public health and policy-orientated world report on cancer, and urge that such a report be regularly updated based on latest evidence with key stakeholders including World Cancer Research Fund International.