



## Statement at the 72nd Session of the WHO World Health Assembly

20–28 May 2019

### **Agenda Item: 11.8 Follow-up to the high-level meetings of the United Nations General Assembly on health-related issues: Prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases**

Honoured Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

The World Heart Federation, on behalf of the Union for International Cancer Control and World Cancer Research Fund International, and supported by the NCD Alliance and Vital Strategies, reiterates that progress is painfully insufficient on NCDs and unacceptable data gaps persist.

We call on Member States to:

- Adopt Decision EB(144)1 to accelerate progress to 2025 and to achieve SDG3.4
- Secure sustainable financing for WHO and domestic NCD response: UHC falls short where NCDs are chronically, disproportionately underfunded. We encourage governments to increase fiscal space, including removing health-harmful subsidies.
- Meaningfully involve people living with NCDs and marginalised populations
- Implement cost-effective interventions for the prevention and control of NCDs: the “best buys” and recommended interventions offer a toolbox of proven measures to adapt to domestic burdens of disease and resource settings.
- Exercise caution when engaging the private sector: recognise the 2018 HLM on NCDs as a low point for the negative influence of select private sector entities. Stricter consideration must be given to potential conflicts of interest.

Furthermore, we call on WHO to:

- Ensure top level management accountability for the NCD Delivery Plan, including cross-department coordination and delivery.
- Address data gaps, allocating human and financial resources at the country level to meet demand for technical assistance, supporting the roll-out of technical packages, and recommended interventions.
- And identify a more comprehensive package of evidence-based interventions, to accelerate towards SDG 3.4 and contribute significantly across the SDGs.

Thank you.