



## Joint statement to the 146<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Health Organization's Executive Board Provisional agenda item 22.1, EB 146/33

Honourable chair, distinguished delegates,

This statement is delivered on behalf of UICC, ISN, WCRF International and the Union, supported by NCD Alliance.

We urge Member States consider the proposals in light of the Global Health Action Plan, which recognises community and civil society engagement as a necessary accelerator for SDG3, and the WHO Civil Society Task Team recommendation to create more meaningful civil society participation in policymaking.

We remain concerned that current proposals risk further shrinking civil society space and we urge WHO to safeguard the involvement of the voices of people living with NCDs, carers, youth, marginalised groups and those from lower income contexts:

- **Establish a mixed working group to consider proposals** and impacts on different NSA groups.
- **Increase accessibility via online consultations** at the outset of preparation of policies and strategies to better gather civil society expertise, increase access for groups with limited resources, and increase relevance of statements.
- **Ensure relevance of proposed informal meetings** including clarification of the objectives of the proposed meetings in relation to WHO governance and on the mandate for Member States to participate. We remain concerned regarding prohibitive costs for smaller organisers and those from LMICs.
- We request that the **size of civil society delegations** *not* be limited.
- **Constituency statements:** constituencies for statements must be self-selecting and a limit of 3 civil society constituency statements is too narrow to reflect diverse views and risks losing important expert perspectives and voices with lived experience. Nor should organisations be limited in how many statements they can support. We call for current practical disincentives to group statements to be removed, including the names of organisations being subtracted from the word count, and request more time to deliver group statements to positively incentivise voluntary coordination.