



**Statement to the 71<sup>st</sup> World Health Assembly**  
**Agenda Item 12.3 (A71/19 Rev. 1)**  
**Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016-2030):**  
**Early childhood development**

This statement is delivered by World Cancer Research Fund International, supported by NCD Alliance, World Obesity Federation, Union for International Cancer Control and 1,000 Days.

Malnutrition in all its forms is on the rise in all countries. This includes childhood obesity which affects over 41 million children under the age of 5. Overweight and obesity often tracks into adulthood, increasing the risk of several cancers and other diet-related NCDs. We commend the Global Strategy for taking coordinated action in integrating actions to address malnutrition, including diet-related NCDs.

We welcome the focus on early childhood development and call for the scale-up of 'double-duty' actions within the implementation of the nurturing care framework that address both undernutrition and overweight and obesity, while taking care to prevent and manage conflicts of interest in the policy development process.

We call on Member States to:

- 1. Develop and implement integrated policies** to promote early childhood development building on interlinkages between the RMNCAH and NCD agendas, such as double-duty actions, while implementing cost-effective NCD interventions as set forth in the updated Appendix III of the Global NCD Action Plan.
- 2. Ensure a comprehensive global framework for nurturing care** that includes a focus on implementing actions supporting healthy nutrition and development during the first 1,000 days and as a means of reducing undernutrition and the risk of developing diet-related NCDs later in life.
- 3. Promote and support meaningful engagement of civil society** in country-led multi-sectoral action, building new and utilising existing alliances to promote national level implementation of effective policies.

Finally, we encourage all governments to contribute during the Global Financing Facility replenishment phase, ensuring that the GFF maintains its focus on health and nutrition outcomes. Please be assured of our full support in implementing the objectives of the Global Strategy and our support of the RMNCAH community to safeguard the health and wellbeing of women, children and adolescents.