

**Joint statement at the 148th session of the WHO Executive Board, January 2021
Agenda item 16. Social determinants of health (Document EB148/24)**

The World Heart Federation supported by NCD Alliance welcomes the DG's report on addressing social determinants of health (SDoH).

We strongly support the [resolution proposed by Peru](#), recognising the need to establish a WHO operational framework & strengthen data & monitoring on inequalities & impact assessment of policies on SDoH at national, regional & global levels to guide decision making.

We call on Member States to:

- **Prioritise action on SDoH, with systematic attention to noncommunicable disease (NCD)** prevention, treatment & palliative care generally, and in particular as part of pandemic recovery to increase resilience & future health security.
- **Interrupt vicious cycles where inequities and disease** - including NCDs & COVID-19 - exacerbate each other.
- **Ensure access to health is easier for all.** Prioritise equitable access to affordable screening, brief interventions, treatment & patient support services. Promote health across populations with e.g. community-based mental health services, healthy food labelling, procurement & provision in schools, safe spaces for physical activity & active mobility.
- **Change unhealthy environments & norms.** Work with communities to understand & fix barriers to health, using evidence based policies to reduce availability, affordability & promotion of health harming products, including tobacco, alcohol, & ultra-processed, high fat, sugar & salt foods & exposure to pollutants. Risk factors often co-exist with poorer living & working conditions.
- **Tackle the economic, environmental & commercial determinants of health** in the context of SDoH. Request and utilise technical support & guidance from WHO to develop effective responses to them.
- **Reflect on SDoH to ensure equity & health in all policies & coherence across government**, so that unintended health & development impacts of policies, e.g. in trade, agriculture, urban development, transportation & energy do not widen inequalities or undermine our health or that of future generations.

This statement is also supported by

- *World Cancer Research Fund International*
- *World Obesity Federation*
- *Movendi International*