



World Health Professions Alliance WHPA

Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly

Agenda item 13.1: Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the World Health Professions Alliance, which represents collective views of more than 26 million healthcare professionals globally. We would like to commend WHO on the progress made in the implementation of the 2008-2013 Action Plan for the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of NCDs following the UN High-Level Meeting in September 2011. We, however, have several concerns with regard to the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Global Coordination Mechanism and would appreciate your attention to these matters:

1. **Structure of the coordinating mechanism** – The TOR states that participants will include non-state actors along with the UN funds, programs and agencies. However, the rules and terms of participation for non-state actors are not clear. The term itself “participants” is vague and non-committal. We suggest the use of the term “partners” instead and a clear definition of the partnership requirements and selection criteria.
2. **Definition of non-state actors** – We believe that the implementation of the Action Plan will depend on the tireless work and commitment of healthcare workers at the national level. Professional associations are key to facilitating the translation of the global policy into action on the ground. This is particularly important within the context of moving towards universal health coverage and integrating NCDs into the post-2015 development agenda. We propose that the role and expectations of professional associations in the TOR be more clearly defined instead of merely counting them as “non-state” actors.
3. **Working groups** – The eligibility criteria, function and expected outputs of the working groups are not clear. We suggest a more clear definition of their role and functions in the final TOR, and we also suggest making resources available to support their activities.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

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