



World Health Professions Alliance WHPA

65th World Health Assembly Intervention

Agenda item 13.1: Prevention and control of NCDs

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the International Council of Nurses, the International Pharmaceutical Federation, the World Confederation for Physical Therapy, the World Dental Federation and the World Medical Association, which together form the World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA). The Alliance represents the collective views of more than 26 million health professionals, through national associations in more than 130 countries.

We take this opportunity to commend WHO and Member States for their leadership in sustaining international attention on NCDs and their recognition as major contributors to the global burden of disease. However momentum should not be lost at this critical juncture, if the goal of preventing and controlling NCDs is to be achieved.

We would urge WHO and member states:

To ensure that the monitoring framework is broad and inclusive in its scope and does not restrict its focus to a small number of diseases, especially as there are other disease areas which deserve at least the same attention e.g. mental health, musculoskeletal diseases and oral health;

To adopt a holistic approach based on the common risk factors, encompassing young age people and morbidity in indicators. Prevention should start in early life and be maintained over the lifetime. The addition of morbidity as an indicator would enable NCD related diseases to be addressed throughout the life course

To reinstate and adopt the proposed targets on alcohol and obesity;

To recognise that it is imperative to work together in a committed partnership, one which includes Member States, UN agencies, civil society and the private sector, with due consideration given to addressing conflict of interest.

Healthy lifestyles need to be an integral part of the development and surroundings of every child and adult, as recommended by the WHO's Commission on the Social Determinants of Health. Hence we strongly recommend that social determinants of health and health care systems strengthening be identified as an overarching strategy to be linked with other WHO strategies.

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