



## World Health Professions Alliance WHPA

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### Sixty-eight World Health Assembly

#### Agenda item 13.1: Outcome of the Second International Conference on Nutrition

Honourable Members of the World Health Assembly,

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.

WHPA, we would like to congratulate WHO for the work done within the framework of the Second International Conference on Nutrition. Promoting healthy diet can reduce many problems such as NCDs and birth related complications, so we welcome the commitment of governments to address this important determinant of health.

As health professionals, we strongly support WHO's vision of a world with coherent policies to promote a diversified, balanced and healthy diet throughout the life-course as well as the integration of this vision into the post-2015 development agenda.

With reference to recommendation 14 of the draft Framework for Action, we would like to commend WHO for the recent publication of the *WHO Guideline: Sugar intake for adults and children*. It is an essential step in achieving a reduction in tooth decay (dental caries), the most prevalent NCD globally affecting 3.9 billion people worldwide, and alleviating the global burden of NCDs. As for measure to gradually reduce the content of saturated fat, sugars and salt/sodium and *trans*-fat in foods and beverages (recommendation 14), we therefore strongly encourage WHO to, *inter alia*, look into:

- Higher taxation on sugar-rich food and sugar-sweetened beverages, earmarking added revenue for health promotion.
- Transparent food labelling for informed consumer choices.
- Strong regulation of sugar in baby foods and sugar-sweetened beverages.
- Limiting marketing and availability of sugar-rich foods and sugar-sweetened beverages to children and adolescents.
- Simplified nutrition guidelines, including sugar intake, to promote healthy eating and drinking

Furthermore, we would like to emphasize the recommendation of the Rome Declaration on food safety and antimicrobial resistance and in particular recommendations 56 and 57. In many countries, more antibiotics are prescribed to animals than humans, mainly to promote growth, not to treat infection. This practice promotes antimicrobial resistance. The resistant bacteria may then be transmitted to humans and cross international borders.

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