

Statement at the 140th WHO Executive Board**Agenda Item 10.1: Preparation for the third High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, to be held in 2018**

Chairperson, distinguished delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to make this statement on behalf of the World Heart Federation supported by NCD Alliance.

Report EB140/27 highlights that progress on national NCD responses remains highly inadequate. Member States must urgently accelerate national NCD efforts ahead of the 2018 UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs. Political will and technical and financial provisions are required to realize the potential of the meeting. We therefore call on the EB to provide clear guidance on the UNHLM preparatory process and make the following recommendations:

1. **Hold preparatory meetings in all WHO regions** to assess region-specific challenges and priorities. These meetings should commence after the publication of the WHO Director-General's NCD Progress Report, and conclude by March 2018. A segment of all regional meetings should be multisectoral and multistakeholder.
2. **Convene a UN Civil Society Task Force** as the official mechanism through which civil society, including people living with NCDs, can provide input to the UNHLM preparations and **hold an interactive Civil Society Hearing no later than two months prior to the UNHLM** to ensure that recommendations can feed into the Outcome Document negotiations.
3. **Participation of Member States must be at Heads of State level.** This was not the case in 2014 and a major weakness. The 2018 UNHLM marks an important mid-way point to achieving the global '25 by 25' targets and the highest political level of engagement is critical to its success.
4. **Hold the UNHLM in September 2018, just prior to the UN General Assembly for a minimum of two days and conclude with an action-oriented outcome document** with time-bound commitments, targets to ensure accountability and monitoring of progress, and allocation of resources to accelerate action.

NCD Alliance is committed to working with WHO and Member States to ensure a successful 2018 UNHLM.