

**69<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly Statement by The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease on behalf of Vital Strategies and NCD Alliance**

**Agenda Item 13.5: Draft road map for an enhanced global response to the adverse health effects of air pollution**

Honourable chairperson, distinguished delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver this statement on behalf of The Union, Vital Strategies, and NCD Alliance; a global network of civil society organisations united against NCDs.

NCDs and air pollution are intrinsically linked. Indoor and outdoor pollution impact directly on morbidity and mortality from NCDs such as respiratory disease, cardiovascular disease and cancer. We support endorsement of the roadmap and stand ready to support its implementation.

To further strengthen the roadmap, we call on WHO and Member States to:

- **Identify effective policy interventions based on criteria beyond reduction of air pollution alone.** As part of work to expand the knowledge base, we urge WHO to fully incorporate public health advantages of co-benefit solutions which **not only** reduce exposure to air pollution, but **simultaneously** other NCD risk factors, including through active transport and sustainable food systems. With a wide range of potential policy measures, we strongly recommend elaboration and promotion of a package of best buy interventions.
- **Establish a comprehensive indicator framework.** Document EB138/17 notes that the roadmap presented at the 69<sup>th</sup> WHA will include a proposed monitoring and reporting framework with indicators and objectives to track progress. As a crucial component of the work on monitoring, we urge the development of this framework ahead of the 70<sup>th</sup> WHA, aligned with commitments in the Paris Agreement and Agenda 2030.
- **Promote a multisectoral and intersectoral approach throughout implementation of the roadmap.** Given the roots of air pollution across a spectrum of sectors, and the integrated and indivisible nature of the SDGs, explicit focus on extending engagement beyond health and environment sectors is required. Furthermore, the role of civil society, not least in monitoring and accountability, should be recognised in implementation of the roadmap.

Thank you for your attention.