



Decade of Healthy Ageing

Development of a proposal for a Decade of Healthy Ageing 2020–30

Agenda item 17, [EB146/23](#)

Many thanks for the opportunity to deliver this statement on behalf of UICC and ISN, supported by the NCD Alliance.

We warmly welcome the proposal to develop a decade of health ageing. The priorities are fully consistent with the need to urgently step up policy action and investment in the NCD response. Cancer, as with many other NCDs, is more common amongst older people. IARC estimates suggest that there were 11.4 million new cancer cases amongst the over-60s in 2018, and these figures are forecast to increase due to the combined growth in global cancer burden and proportion of population over the age of 60. At the same time, older populations are more likely to have co-morbidities, posing additional challenges to their successful management and demanding coordinated, affordable and quality long-term care.

We welcome the collaborative process that was adopted throughout the development of the proposal. The proposed decade of health ageing provides an important opportunity to accelerate the development and implementation of policies and services that can address the needs of older people and promote health equity. We urge Member States to support the draft decision and:

- Call for stronger emphasis on prevention of NCDs: There is insufficient recognition of the major risk factors curtailing healthy lives and particularly of social and commercial determinants of health, which is essential to identify compatible partnerships.
- Increase systematic meaningful engagement of older persons, including people living with NCDs, in the development, implementation and evaluation of policies, programmes and services nationally and regionally.
- Conduct further research into challenges faced by older persons such as limited participation in clinical trials, accessing quality and affordable services, including the management of multimorbidity, and the allocation of sufficient resources to integrate services designed for older populations and which foster independence and quality of life as a core part of national UHC packages.