



January 2021

Joint statement at the 148th session of the WHO Executive Board on Agenda item 6: Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (EB148/7 Annex 2 & 3)

WCRF International, UICC and World Obesity Federation, supported by NCDA, welcome the Director General's report on the Political declaration of the 3rd UN high-level meeting on the prevention and control of NCDs.

However progress in ending malnutrition and preventing cancer and other NCDs through policy & action is off track. The SDGs, 2025 WHO nutrition and NCD targets are unlikely to be met.

We commend WHO's leadership through the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and related initiatives. However Member State policy responses to obesity and diet-related NCDs, such as evidence based & effective Best Buys, are inadequately prioritised, implemented and resourced.

We are disturbed by the impact of COVID-19 on healthy diets and health outcomes for those living with NCDs and obesity, especially in low income and vulnerable populations.

All stakeholders must urgently scale up action.

We urge Member States to:

- Accelerate efforts to develop and implement diet-related NCD policies particularly the NCD Best Buys & efficient double duty actions to meet malnutrition and diet-related NCD targets.
- Raise and allocate adequate resources to develop and implement policies to promote healthy diets and address overweight and obesity through domestic and donor sources.
- Include diet-related NCD policy into COVID-19 pandemic response.
- Recognise and address actions by the food and beverage industry that undermine health. WHO should strengthen guidance on protecting health promoting policies, (especially those benefiting children) from conflict of interest in order to support implementation & enforcement.
- Engage civil society to help strengthen action networks and monitor progress towards NCD and malnutrition targets.

The UN Food Systems & Nutrition for Growth Summits, and G7 provide vital opportunities to accelerate efforts to secure healthy diets for all. We urge all stakeholders to be SMART and ensure no one is left behind with any form of malnutrition.