

Statement by the World Heart Federation, on behalf of the NCD Alliance
134th WHO Executive Board Agenda Item 8: Promoting Health throughout the Lifecourse

Madam Chairman, Honourable Ministers, Director-General, ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver this statement on behalf of the World Heart Federation and the NCD Alliance – a global civil society network working collectively to transform the fight against non-communicable diseases.

In order to safeguard MDG progress and drive sustainable, equitable human development, health must be at the center of the post-2015 development agenda. We urge WHO and Member States to champion health goals and a health-in-all-policies approach in the post-2015 development process.

In particular, we encourage Member States to support an overarching health goal on maximizing healthy life expectancy at all stages of life. This outcome-focused goal prioritizes health issues in a non-competitive manner, while addressing mortality, morbidity, and disability at all ages. Whilst universal health coverage is necessary to achieve health in the post-2015 era, it is insufficient as the overarching health goal.

The explicit inclusion of non-communicable diseases in the post-2015 framework is essential, particularly if we are to arrive at a sustainable development framework that improves the health and wellbeing of the poorest and most vulnerable populations. We urge Member States to draw from the agreed Global Monitoring Framework for NCDs and adapt the target to reduce relative mortality from NCDs by 25 percent by 2025 for inclusion in the post-2015 framework.

We strongly encourage the inclusion of NCD-related targets across all dimensions of the future framework, including targets on overnutrition and obesity, air pollution, and active transport particularly in urban areas. The upcoming UN NCD Review and Assessment is an opportunity to provide further guidance on integrating NCDs into the post-2015 agenda.

Please be assured that the NCD Alliance stands ready to support you in these discussions and deliberations.