

NCD Alliance Statement

Launch of Phase II of the WHO Civil Society Working Group on NCDs

[for release Wed 11 Dec, 14:00 Oman / 11:00 Geneva / 10am London]

Muscat, Oman, 11 December 2019 - The NCD Alliance welcomes the launch of the second phase of the WHO Civil Society Working Group on NCDs (CS WG), which was first convened by WHO Director-General Dr Tedros from October 2017 to October 2018 to advise him in the lead up to the third UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs in 2018. Recognising the relevance of the Working Group and building on the recommendation of the WHO Independent High-Level Commission Report *Time to Deliver*, which calls for more meaningful engagement of civil society, Dr Tedros has extended the mandate of the CS WG through to April 2021. This is further recognition of civil society as a critical partner in the NCD response, and the important role that civil society has in setting the agenda on NCDs, raising public demand for policies, laws, and regulation, and ensuring that services reach all people and communities.

The second phase of the CS WG has been launched with expanded membership. New members of the WG were approved by the WHO Director-General following a nomination and voting process to include representatives from additional sectors such as health and environment, humanitarian settings, faith-based organisations, human rights, and indigenous communities.

Together, the group of 36 continuing and new members represent civil society leaders from all regions and will focus their work on advocacy and communications, accountability, and the meaningful involvement of civil society and people living with and affected by NCDs, including through the following:

- Promote and disseminate the outcomes of the 2018 UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs and the 2019 UN High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage (UHC);
- Broker synergies with civil society from other areas of global health to advocate in relation to co- and multi-morbidities and UHC;
- Track and monitor the political and policy response to NCDs from a civil society perspective;
- Promote the meaningful involvement of civil society, communities, youth, and people living with NCDs in the NCD response at global, regional, and national levels.

“As Co-Chair of the Civil Society Working Group on NCDs, I am pleased that Dr Tedros has extended the mandate of the Working Group. Civil society is impatient for change, and the clock is ticking towards the attainment of the 2025 NCD targets and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. We intend for this Civil Society Working Group to support WHO in stepping up the pace of action and ensuring civil society and people living with NCDs are at the heart of the response,” said NCD Alliance CEO Katie Dain.