

Statement at the Special Session of the WHO Executive Board, November 22-23

The Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease and the NCD Alliance congratulate WHO on an ambitious draft 13th General Programme of Work.

We welcome the focus on the UN Sustainable Development Goals in framing the GPW13, support its mission and strategic priorities, and the renewed focus on putting countries at the centre.

We are pleased to see greater prominence given to the prevention and control of NCDs, particularly evident via the inclusion of NCDs and mental health as a flagship initiative. Given their health burden and economic impact, it is crucial WHO takes a leadership role on NCDs, in particular in the lead-up to the 2018 UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs.

In order to strengthen the current draft, we propose the following points:

- **Recognize the Global NCD Monitoring Framework:** We would welcome explicit mention of the agreed global '25 by 25' NCD mortality reduction target as guiding WHO's overall work on NCDs to ensure continuous progress on all nine global NCD targets.
- **Balance prevention and treatment of NCDs:** In order to support health systems strengthening under UHC we suggest that a target measuring the ability of health systems to treat and manage NCDs be included in the Impact Framework, adapted from the list of global NCD targets, e.g. "80% coverage of essential NCD medicines and technologies".
- **Leverage synergies across flagship priorities:** We encourage integrated approaches in the delivery of flagship initiatives, including institutionalized cross-departmental collaboration.

We applaud WHO for the commitment to "speak up against practices that are harmful to health" and encourage WHO to take determined leadership on the social and commercial determinants of NCDs.

Finally, we welcome reference to cooperation with civil society. WHO, at all levels, needs to pro-actively collaborate with civil society and the people it serves to build the demand for stronger health systems and robust public health policies.