



**Statement at the 72nd Session of the WHO World Health Assembly**  
20 – 28 May 2019

**Agenda Item: 11.8 Follow-up to the high-level meetings of the United Nations General Assembly on health-related issues: Prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases**

World Cancer Research Fund International, supported by NCD Alliance, Union for International Cancer Control, World Heart Federation & Vital Strategies welcome actions outlined by the DG to accelerate implementation of all commitments to reduce the burden of NCDs. However progress is painfully insufficient & unacceptable data gaps persist.

We call on Member States to:

- Adopt Decision EB(144)1 to accelerate progress to 2025 & to achieve SDG3.4.
- Secure sustainable financing for WHO & domestic NCD response: UHC falls short where NCDs are chronically, disproportionately underfunded. Sustained financing, for prevention & treatment, is a prerequisite for UHC. We encourage governments to increase fiscal space, including removing health harmful subsidies.
- Elevate the voices of people living with NCDs & marginalised populations: Meaningfully involve them through policy & programme development & implementation.
- Implement cost-effective interventions for prevention & control of NCDs: The Best Buys & recommended interventions offer a toolbox of proven measures to adapt to domestic burden of disease & resource settings.
- Exercise caution when engaging the private sector in the NCD response: The private sector is not homogenous. Recognise the 2018 HLM on NCDs as a low point for negative influence of a few private sector entities. Stricter consideration must be given to potential conflicts of interest.

We call on WHO to:

- Ensure top level management accountability for the NCD Delivery Plan: Ensure cross-department coordination & delivery. Address data gaps. Allocate human & financial resources at country level to meet demand for technical assistance, support roll-out of technical packages & recommended interventions.
- Identify a comprehensive package of evidence-based interventions, to accelerate towards SDG 3.4 & contribute significantly across the SDGs, including poverty reduction, gender equity & environmental goals.