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Agenda Item 8 **Strengthening rehabilitation in health systems (EB152/8)**

WSO, supported by NCDA and IDF, welcomes WHO and Member State initiatives to strengthen rehabilitation services. The need is increasing with the rising prevalence of NCDs and disruption of 60% of essential rehabilitation services during COVID-19 – more than any other service. 101 million individuals globally live with stroke, experiencing physical and communication difficulties, loss of work and independence. Neuro-rehabilitation units and long-term rehabilitation are essential for health, well-being and social participation. Barriers to rehabilitation in LMICs, where NCD burden is increasing, include insufficient workforce, infrastructure, high costs and poor understanding of its role.

We call for:

- Inclusion of rehabilitation in UHC health benefit packages, within the continuum of care, enabled by guideline development, frameworks and education for patients and professionals.
- Meaningful involvement of people living with NCDs in developing policies and services, to enable cost-effective, locally relevant, and timely interventions.

