



**Statement on behalf of the International Society of Nephrology to the World Health Assembly  
Draft thirteenth general programme of work**

**(Agenda item 11.1)**

Honourable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

ISN <sup>1</sup> welcomes the 13th GPW 2019–2023 and in particular the strong emphasis on UHC, which for kidney patients translates into sustainable access to affordable laboratory services for detection & screening, equitable access to treatment to delay kidney disease progression and integrated health services to manage NCD multi-morbidity and risk factors.

We welcome the NCD Platform, but regret that the current work proposed focuses predominantly on four main diseases and fails to recognize the burden of many others. Indeed, 55% of the global NCD burden arises from other NCDs, which tend to be overlooked in terms of premature mortality and poor quality of life.

Notably, kidney disease – now the 11th leading cause of death globally – is a rapidly growing health burden and poses a significant health care challenge for governments, particularly in low and middle-income countries. Chronic kidney disease (CKD) causes an estimated 1.2 million deaths per year and is now the 6th fastest growing cause of death. An additional 1.2 million cardiovascular deaths are attributable to reduced kidney function. Kidney disease is a cause and a consequence of other major NCDs, including heart disease and diabetes, but has been neglected in global NCD discussions to date.

We call on WHO to:

- **Leave no disease behind:** implement an integrated approach to NCD prevention and management, which recognises the burden of kidney disease and the frequent co-morbidities of CVD, DM, HT and CKD
- **Cover all bases:** implement a comprehensive approach to NCDs (including kidney disease) through national strategies that include prevention, early screening, detection and management of early stage disease, as well provide active or supportive treatment for end-stage disease
- **Increase available resources:** meet the financing needs of the global NCD response from all sources, including innovative financing and price negotiations by 2025.

Thank you

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<sup>1</sup> Please <https://www.theisn.org/> for more information.