



Statement on behalf of the International Society of Nephrology to the 140th session of the WHO Executive Board meeting ‘Preparation for the third High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, to be held in 2018’

(Agenda item 10.1)

Honourable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the International Society of Nephrology, we wish to thank the WHO and its Member States for the report on the preparation of the third High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of NCDs in 2018.

Although not among the 4 NCDs specifically targeted by the WHO Global Action Plan, the ISN welcomes the fact that the plan emphasises synergies between the 4 major communicable diseases and other diseases, including kidney disease.

Both chronic kidney disease (CKD) and acute kidney injury (AKI) raise important public health concerns.

One in ten adults worldwide has CKD, but the majority are unaware of it. Risk factors include diabetes, age, hypertension and infections. CKD DALYs and deaths have increased by 24% and 32% respectively over the past decade. CKD is a major risk factor for heart disease and cardiac death, the contribution of which has yet to be reflected in the NCD Action Plan’s CVD interventions. The costs of dialysis and transplantation are prohibitive in most countries, therefore screening of high-risk individuals, universal access to essential medication for hypertension and diabetes, and institution of health policies to optimize life-style choices are the most realistic strategies to address the growing CKD burden.

AKI occurs in 20% of hospitalized patients and causes over 2 million deaths annually world-wide. Risk factors include pregnancy, infections such as diarrhoea and malaria, and nephrotoxic therapies. Increased awareness of AKI risk is crucial to implement effective prevention strategies.

Many structural factors including poverty, education, nutrition, gender inequality, substance abuse and lack of access to primary care directly increase the risk of kidney disease, therefore a multi-sectoral approach as highlighted by the SDGs, is required to tackle this disease.

ISN encourages the WHO and member states to strive to integrate kidney disease in its Global Action Plan as a powerful modifier of cardiovascular and diabetes morbidity and mortality.