



**Statement on behalf of the International Society of Nephrology to the 140<sup>th</sup> session of the WHO Executive Board meeting 'Promoting health through the life course: Progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' (Agenda item 11.1)**

Honourable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the International Society of Nephrology, we wish to thank the WHO for its report on the progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

ISN strongly welcomes the Agenda 2030 as a major opportunity to place health in all sectors of policy-making. The holistic and life-course approach of the SDGs promises to have a positive impact on kidney disease globally.

Kidney disease is an important, still increasing, direct contributor to global morbidity and mortality and also has an important indirect impact as a major risk multiplier in hypertension, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, malaria and HIV.

Access to diagnosis and treatment of kidney disease is highly inequitable across the globe. Progression of chronic kidney disease, if detected early, can be successfully prevented or slowed through access to cheap generic medication, but sustainable access to such medication remains a major hurdle in many low and middle-income countries (LMIC). When kidney failure occurs, dialysis and transplantation are the only life-sustaining options. In many LMIC, such therapies are generally inaccessible because of catastrophic out-of-pocket costs, leading to millions of annual deaths in economically active people.

In addition to health-related risk factors, many structural risk factors, including poverty, malnutrition, disempowerment of women, lack of education, poor sanitation, environmental and occupational exposures and natural disasters increase the risk of kidney disease, which underscores the importance of the holistic life-course approach embedded in the SDGs to tackle the global burden of kidney disease.

ISN supports this approach and calls on WHO and member governments to step up their efforts towards the effective implementation of national and regional plans to strengthen national health systems, achieve universal health coverage and reduce the burden of kidney disease through development of integrated strategies within comprehensive NCD packages to prevent, detect and treat of kidney disease early to delay progression.