

EXECUTIVE BOARD EB144/17
144th session
Medicines, vaccines and health products

Honorable chair, distinguished delegates,

The International Society of Nephrology, supported by the NCD Alliance, very much welcomes the WHO draft roadmap for access to medicines, vaccines and other health products and the two key principles outlined therein: (1) ensuring quality, safety and efficacy of health products and (2) improving equitable access to health products for all.

Around 850 million people worldwide live with some form of kidney disease. Chronic kidney disease is predicted to become the 5th leading cause of years of life lost by 2040.

Kidney disease can be prevented through equitable and affordable access to diagnostics, vaccinations and basic treatment for common risk factors including hypertension and diabetes. Once acute or chronic kidney disease begins, worsening can be prevented through early diagnosis and treatment. Despite strong evidence supporting effective treatment for kidney disease and its risk factors by cheap, generic medicines, access remains highly inequitable within and across countries.

We call on member states and all stakeholders involved to implement to ensure:

- Promotion of rational selection of essential medicines, implementation of evidence-based clinical practice guidelines, and equitable access to WHO list of essential medicines at all levels of the health system.
- Fair and transparent pricing and reliable quality of medication.
- Promotion of integrated care to rationalize medication access and use.
- Universal access to essential diagnostics which are key for early diagnosis and optimal management of NCDs which are often asymptomatic at early stages.
- Capacity building amongst health workers and the health system to enhance awareness and appropriate management of NCDs.

Thank you