

**ISN Statement at the 73<sup>rd</sup> session of the WHO Regional Committee  
for the Western Pacific on Agenda Item 12:  
Non-communicable disease prevention and control**

Honourable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the International Society of Nephrology, we wish to thank the WHO and its Member States for the draft “Regional Action Framework for Noncommunicable Disease Prevention and Control in the Western Pacific”. We particularly welcome its emphasis on sustaining investments for NCDs prevention and control and on encouraging the adoption of innovative and tailored approaches to address NCDs.

ISN certainly applauds the progress made in the region but regrets that the overall focus of the activities aimed at tackling NCDs seems still to be on the 4 major NCDs (cancer, heart and lung diseases and diabetes) and fails to take into account the significant burden of other NCDs, which are closely linked to these major non-communicable diseases.

Kidney disease for example is strongly associated with hypertension and diabetes, often overlooked without early detection programs, and often undertreated with inadequate management of hypertension and diabetes. A frequently underappreciated fact, furthermore, is that chronic kidney disease (CKD) alone is a stronger risk factor for coronary events than diabetes alone, and when the two conditions co-exist (which occurs in 1 in 3 patients with diabetes), the risk of cardiovascular events and overall mortality is further multiplied.

ISN recommends a comprehensive response to the prevention and control of NCDs, taking into account “synergies between the 4 major communicable diseases and other related conditions”.

Appropriate screening, tracking and management of all NCDs create significant synergies and knock-on effects for the overall well-being of the population and economies of scope for health budgets. ISN therefore strongly urges WHO and Member States to recognize the need for an integrated approach in the fight against NCDs by placing the necessary emphasis on the synergies between the 4 major non-communicable diseases and other diseases and recognizing the importance of tackling NCDs in a comprehensive and integrated manner which leaves no patient behind.

Thank you for your attention.