

## 73<sup>rd</sup> WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

### Agenda Item A73/5

#### STATEMENT BY THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF NEPHROLOGY

Honorable chair, distinguished delegates,

Given the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on people living with NCDs and circulatory conditions such as kidney disease, diabetes, CVD, and stroke, the International Society of Nephrology, International Diabetes Federation, World Heart Federation, and World Stroke Organization reiterate our support for Political Declaration (A73/5) on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.

As members of the Global Coalition for Circulatory Health, we urge you to recognize the impact of COVID-19 on patients with acute or permanent kidney failure, heart disease, and other circulatory conditions, many of whom face interruption to, or the unavailability of, life-saving treatments such as dialysis and transplantation.

We would also highlight the increasing prevalence of multi-morbidity over the past 20 years.

Kidney disease, like CVD, stroke, diabetes, and other circulatory diseases, can be triggered or worsened by other conditions, synergistically lowering the quality of life participation for the individuals affected, who also tend to have the highest rates of multimorbidity and are therefore especially vulnerable in weak health systems.

Whilst multimorbidity is a growing public health concern, research into its impacts is limited due to the current lack of focus on this issue in existing global commitments. As such, we call upon Member States and the WHO to:

- Recognize multi-morbidity and co-morbidity as a growing worldwide public health concern that may affect over 1.7 billion people living with life threatening NCDs
- Prioritize their inclusion between NCDs in the design and implementation of policies aiming at the prevention, early detection and treatment of all NCDs and their common risk factors via the delivery of health services that meet quality criteria
- Maximize common efforts to create and reinforce health systems that deliver affordable, people-centered, integrated, multi-sectoral and comprehensive NCD responses



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