

WHF & ISN Statement – Agenda Item 3.8 – Preparation for UNHLM on NCDs in 2018

Honourable Chair, distinguished delegates,

The World Heart Federation and the International Society of Nephrology welcome the Secretariat's report.

We praise WHO for emphasizing in their report that taking action on NCDs is first and foremost a political choice, and we further commend the Secretariat for highlighting the chronic underfunding of the response to this epidemic.

We believe that investing in interventions to tackle NCDs, such as cardiovascular disease (or CVD) and kidney disease, is a matter of health justice, and one that cannot be ignored. 82% of deaths from NCDs occur in LMICs, and 37% are caused by CVD.¹

Despite this, only 1.2% of global development assistance for health went to NCD-related interventions in 2011.² It is estimated that NCDs will cost more than \$30 trillion globally over the next 20 years,³ due to direct and indirect costs that should not be under-estimated.

The HLM offers an opportunity to take stock and to identify countries' pressing needs and barriers to action. Civil Society stands ready to offer our support and expertise to governments.

We therefore fully support the comprehensive preparatory process put forward by the NCD Alliance, and call on WHO and the UN to implement their proposals. This plan would promote the active participation of civil society and help to ensure an impactful meeting.

We further endorse the priorities identified by the NCD Alliance, and wish to highlight three key areas requiring urgent action:

1. Improve access to NCD treatments: by increasing access to essential NCD medicines and technologies, Member States can save millions of lives through affordable, cost-effective interventions.
2. Increase financing of national plans to prevent and control NCDs. Without additional investment, the global CVD and NCD burdens have the potential to reverse public health and development gains achieved in recent decades.
3. Recognize the synergies between the four major NCDs and other diseases such as kidney disease by adopting integrated screening and disease management programs to improve early detection and treatment, tracking and management of all NCDs relevant in each Member State.

Thank you for your attention.

¹ <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs317/en/>

² https://www.path.org/publications/files/NCD_nes_exec_summary.pdf

³ http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Harvard_HE_GlobalEconomicBurdenNonCommunicableDiseases_2011.pdf