

Brussels, April 2025

Subject: Open Letter Calling UN Member States to Vote in Favor of the WHO Resolution on Kidney Health

We, the undersigned, represent the global kidney health community and call on UN Member States to support the WHO resolution on kidney health during the 78th World Health Assembly (19-27 May 2025).

Collectively, we represent:

- Tens of millions people living with kidney disease
- More than 400,000 health professionals
- Millions of people at risk of developing kidney disease due to diabetes, hypertension and other key risk factors

We write ahead of the World Health Assembly, where the proposed [resolution](#)—led by Guatemala, with notable commitment from its Minister of Health, Joaquin Barnoya, and co-sponsored by multiple countries—will strengthen global efforts to prevent, detect, and manage kidney disease as a major contributor to the burden of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs).

Kidney disease is a growing global health crisis. It is projected to become the **fifth leading cause of death by 2050**, with **850 million people worldwide currently affected**. Kidney disease is often preventable, yet millions of people, especially in low- and middle-income countries, lack access to essential early detection and treatment. The consequences include increased morbidity and mortality, overwhelming financial burdens on patients and healthcare systems, and more use of expensive, carbon-intensive dialysis treatments.

The kidney health community urges Member States to vote in favor of the resolution to:

- **Improve prevention, early detection, and equitable management of kidney disease**, leveraging existing NCD strategies and universal healthcare frameworks.
- **Address key risk factors such as diabetes and hypertension** through WHO’s “best buys” and a total risk approach to slow disease progression and prevent kidney failure.
- **Reduce reliance on costly dialysis treatments** through timely interventions, which will save lives, prevent catastrophic expenditures, and mitigate climate change.
- **Increase kidney transplant accessibility** for eligible patients through timely referrals and better access to organ donation.
- **Enhance health equity** by prioritizing kidney health among socially disadvantaged communities most at risk of kidney disease.

For every **\$1 spent on early detection and timely management of kidney disease, up to \$45 can be saved through direct and indirect healthcare benefits**—improving health outcomes, reducing long-term healthcare costs, and ensuring the resilience of health systems worldwide.

Now is the time to act. Supporting this resolution is a crucial step toward reducing the global burden of kidney disease and ensuring that millions of people have access to lifesaving care.

We urge all UN Member States to vote in favor of the resolution and make kidney health a global priority.

Sincerely,


Mohamad Hefez (Mar 31, 2025 10:13 GMT+2)

AFRAN

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World Hypertension League