

Statement at 71st World Health Assembly

Draft thirteenth general programme of work, 2019–2023

Agenda Item 11.1

I deliver this statement on behalf of UICC, supported by the NCD Alliance.

We welcome the GPW 13 and commend inclusion of the platform to prevent NCDs and promote mental health, accompanied by initiatives on mental health, trans-fats, and cervical cancer. These measures reflect the global burden and will bolster the international response at a crucial juncture. Multiple commitments exist, but there is a deficit in implementation. Leadership from WHO to invest in NCDs has never been so critical.

We make the following recommendations:

- **Ensure robust financing and improve quality and efficiency of investments across all programme areas.** It is unacceptable that WHO's work on NCDs remains the most underfunded programme area, with only 70% of the approved sum for the Category mobilised in 2016-2017, despite a cost of just **\$1.27 per person per year in LMICs to achieve a 15% reduction in premature NCD mortality by 2030**. We strongly urge Member States to remedy this situation, including by un-earmarking contributions.
- **Adopt a balanced and comprehensive impact framework.** We commend the emphasis in the impact framework and the recommendations of the Expert Reference Group to enhance access to both treatment and prevention services. We applaud inclusion of targets on palliative care and 80% access to essential medicines for primary health care, in parallel with the draft tracer indicators by the ERG for secondary and tertiary level care. We urge disaggregation of data by socioeconomic group to ensure no-one is left behind, consistent with the ethos of the GPW, UHC, and Agenda 2030.
- **Leverage the GPW targets on NCD prevention and control as 'checkpoints' towards longer term outcomes.** NCD-related targets and priorities of the GPW should not be considered as endpoints, but rather as milestone markers to highlight where increased momentum is needed to achieve the 2025 and 2030 targets.

We encourage adoption of the GPW 13, and thank you for your attention.