

Draft thirteenth general programme of work 2019–2023

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Distinguished chair, Members of the Executive Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver this statement on behalf of UICC supported by the NCD Alliance.

We welcome the improvements to the draft 13th General Programme of Work and recognise in particular a stronger focus on health throughout the lifecourse, including healthy ageing and early childhood development; palliative care, physical activity and more explicit human rights language.

As the world's #1 cause of preventable death and disability, which significantly impacts the poor and most vulnerable, we are pleased with NCDs as one of the five platforms of the draft GPW13. In order to support the intention of GPW13 to significantly increase WHO's capacity and leadership on NCDs, we make the following recommendations:

- **Ensure strong NCD indicators within the GPW's priority area on Universal Health Coverage.** We are concerned that the proposed UHC indicator would not accurately assess the ability of health systems to timely diagnose, treat and manage NCDs. As it currently stands, access to essential NCD medicines and technologies would still not be available to the poorest and most vulnerable in 2023 without additional focus on accelerating WHO's Best Buys for NCD treatment and related indicators in the Impact Framework.
- **Scale-up WHO's capacity to provide upstream policy advice and technical assistance** to accelerate policy coherence for NCDs across sectors, within national sustainable development strategies and in line with commitments in key resolutions, like the 2017 cancer resolution.
- **Ensure adequate funding across all programme areas.** It is unacceptable that WHO's work on NCDs has consistently been the main chronically underfunded programme area and we strongly urge Member States to take necessary action to remedy this situation, including by un-earmarking contributions.

Finally, we propose that the Global Coordination Mechanism on NCDs be added among the vehicles for delivering platform 2 on NCDs.