

Cancer prevention and control in the context of an integrated approach

The Seventieth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on cancer prevention and control in the context of an integrated approach;¹

Acknowledging that, in 2012, cancer was the second leading cause of death in the world with 8.2 million cancer-related deaths, the majority of which occurred in low- and middle-income countries;

Recognizing that cancer is a leading cause of morbidity globally and a growing public health concern, with the annual number of new cancer cases projected to increase from 14.1 million in 2012 to 21.6 million by 2030;

Aware that certain population groups experience inequalities in risk factor exposure and in access to screening, early diagnosis and timely and appropriate treatment, and that they also experience poorer outcomes for cancer; and recognizing that different cancer control strategies are required for specific groups of cancer patients, such as children and adolescents;

Noting that risk reduction has the potential to prevent around half of all cancers;

Aware that early diagnosis and prompt and appropriate treatment, including pain relief and palliative care, can reduce mortality and improve the outcomes and quality of life of cancer patients;

Recognizing with appreciation the introduction of new pharmaceutical products based on investment in innovation for cancer treatment in recent years, and noting with great concern the increasing cost to health systems and patients;

Emphasizing the importance of addressing barriers in access to safe, quality, effective and affordable medicines, medical products and appropriate technology for cancer prevention, detection, screening diagnosis and treatment, including surgery, by strengthening national health systems and international cooperation, including human resources, with the ultimate aim of enhancing access for patients, including through increasing the capacity of the health systems to provide such access;

Recalling resolution WHA58.22 (2005) on cancer prevention and control;

¹ Document A70/32.

Recalling also United Nations General Assembly resolution 66/2 (2011) on the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, which includes a road map of national commitments from Heads of State and Government to address cancer and other noncommunicable diseases;

Recalling further resolution WHA66.10 (2013) endorsing the global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013–2020, which provides guidance on how Member States can realize the commitments they made in the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, including those related to addressing cancer;

Recalling in addition United Nations General Assembly resolution 68/300 (2014) on the Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, which sets out the continued and increased commitments that are essential in order to realize the road map of commitments to address cancer and other noncommunicable diseases included in the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, including four time-bound national commitments for 2015 and 2016;

Mindful of the existing monitoring tool that WHO is using to track the extent to which its 194 Member States are implementing these four time-bound commitments to address cancer and other noncommunicable diseases, in accordance with the technical note¹ published by WHO on 1 May 2015 pursuant to decision EB136(13) (2015);

Mindful also of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control;

Also mindful of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, specifically Goal 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages) with its target 3.4 to reduce, by 2030, premature mortality from noncommunicable diseases by one third, and target 3.8 on achieving universal health coverage;

Appreciating the efforts made by Member States² and international partners in recent years to prevent and control cancer, but mindful of the need for further action;

Reaffirming the global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property;

Reaffirming also the rights of Member States to the full use of the flexibilities in the WTO Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of the Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) to increase access to affordable, safe, effective and quality medicines, noting that, inter alia, intellectual property rights are an important incentive in the development of new health products,

¹ Available at <http://www.who.int/nmh/events/2015/technical-note-en.pdf?ua=1> (accessed 19 May 2017).

² And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

1. URGES Member States,¹ taking into account their context and institutional and legal frameworks, as well as national priorities:

(1) to continue to implement the road map of national commitments for the prevention and control of cancer and other noncommunicable diseases included in United Nations General Assembly resolutions 66/2 (2011) on the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases and 68/300 (2014) on the Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases;

(2) to also implement the four time-bound national commitments for 2015 and 2016 set out in the Outcome document, in preparation for a third High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, to be held in 2018, taking into account the technical note published by WHO on 1 May 2015, which sets out the progress indicators that the Director-General will use to report to the United Nations General Assembly in 2017 on the progress achieved in the implementation of national commitments, including those related to addressing cancer, taking into account cancer-specific risk factors;

(3) to integrate and scale up national cancer prevention and control as part of national responses to noncommunicable diseases, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(4) to develop, as appropriate, and implement national cancer control plans that are inclusive of all age groups; that have adequate resources, monitoring and accountability; and that seek synergies and cost-efficiencies with other health interventions;

(5) to collect high-quality population-based incidence and mortality data on cancer, for all age groups by cancer type, including measurements of inequalities, through population-based cancer registries, household surveys and other health information systems in order to guide policies and plans;

(6) to accelerate the implementation by States Parties of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control; and, for those Member States that have not yet done so, to consider acceding to the Convention at the earliest opportunity, given that the substantial reduction of tobacco use is an important contribution to the prevention and control of cancer; and to act to prevent the tobacco industry's interference in public health policy for the success of reducing the risk factors of noncommunicable diseases;

(7) to promote the primary prevention of cancers;

(8) to promote increased access to cost-effective vaccinations to prevent infections associated with cancers, as part of national immunization schedules, based on country epidemiological profiles and health systems' capacities, and in line with the immunization targets of the global vaccine action plan;

¹ And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

- (9) to develop, implement and monitor programmes, based on national epidemiological profiles, for the early diagnosis of common cancers, and for screening of cancers, according to assessed feasibility and cost-effectiveness of screening, and with adequate capacity to avoid delays in diagnosis and treatment;
- (10) to develop and implement evidence-based protocols for cancer management, in children and adults, including palliative care;
- (11) to collaborate by strengthening, where appropriate, regional and subregional partnerships and networks in order to create centres of excellence for the management of certain cancers;
- (12) to promote recommendations that support clinical decision-making and referral based on the effective, safe and cost-effective use of cancer diagnostic and therapeutic services, such as cancer surgery, radiation and chemotherapy; and to facilitate cross-sectoral cooperation between health professionals, as well as the training of personnel at all levels of health systems;
- (13) to mobilize sustainable domestic human and financial resources and consider voluntary and innovative financing approaches to support cancer control in order to promote equitable and affordable access to cancer care;
- (14) to promote cancer research to improve the evidence base for cancer prevention and control, including research on health outcomes, quality of life and cost-effectiveness;
- (15) to provide pain relief and palliative care in line with resolution WHA67.19 (2014) on the strengthening of palliative care as a component of comprehensive care throughout the life course;
- (16) to anticipate and promote cancer survivor follow-up, late effect management and tertiary prevention, with the active involvement of survivors and their relatives;
- (17) to promote early detection of patients' needs and access to rehabilitation, including in relation to work, psychosocial and palliative care services;
- (18) to promote and facilitate psychosocial counselling and aftercare for cancer patients and their families, taking into account the increasingly chronic nature of cancer;
- (19) to continue fostering partnerships between government and civil society, building on the contribution of health-related nongovernmental organizations and patient organizations, to support, as appropriate, the provision of services for the prevention and control, treatment and care of cancer, including palliative care;
- (20) to work towards the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal 3, target 3.4, reiterating the commitment to reduce, by 2030, premature mortality from cancer and other noncommunicable diseases by one third;
- (21) to promote the availability and affordability of quality, safe and effective medicines (in particular, but not limited to, those on the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines), vaccines and diagnostics for cancer;

(22) to promote access to comprehensive and cost-effective prevention, treatment and care for the integrated management of cancers including, inter alia, increased access to affordable, safe, effective and quality medicines and diagnostics and other technologies;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to develop or adapt stepwise and resource-stratified guidance and tool kits in order to establish and implement comprehensive cancer prevention and control programmes, including for the management of cancers in children and adolescents, leveraging the work of other organizations;

(2) to collect, synthesize and disseminate evidence on the most cost-effective interventions for all age groups, and support Member States¹ in the implementation of these interventions; and to make an investment case for cancer prevention and control;

(3) to strengthen the capacity of the Secretariat both to support the implementation of cost-effective interventions and country-adapted models of care and to work with international partners, including IAEA, to harmonize the technical assistance provided to countries for cancer prevention and control;

(4) to work with Member States,¹ and collaborate with nongovernmental organizations, private sector entities, philanthropic foundations and academic institutions as defined in the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors in order to develop partnerships to scale up cancer prevention and control, and to improve the quality of life of cancer patients, in line with Sustainable Development Goals 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages) and 17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development);

(5) to strengthen the collaboration with nongovernmental organizations, private sector entities, academic institutions and philanthropic foundations, as defined in WHO's Framework for Engagement with Non-State Actors, with a view to fostering the development of effective and affordable new cancer medicines;

(6) to provide technical assistance, upon request, to regional and subregional partnerships and networks, including, where appropriate, support for the establishment of centres of excellence to strengthen cancer management;

(7) to develop, before the end of 2019, the first periodic public health- and policy-oriented world report on cancer, in the context of an integrated approach, based on the latest available evidence and international experience, and covering the elements of this resolution, with the participation of all relevant parts of WHO, including IARC, and in collaboration with all other relevant stakeholders, including cancer survivors;

(8) to enhance the coordination between IARC and other parts of WHO on assessments of hazards and risks, and on the communication of those assessments;

¹ And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

(9) to prepare a comprehensive technical report to the Executive Board at its 144th session that examines pricing approaches, including transparency, and their impact on availability and affordability of medicines for the prevention and treatment of cancer, including any evidence of the benefits or unintended negative consequences, as well as incentives for investment in research and development on cancer and innovation of these measures, as well as the relationship between inputs throughout the value chain and price setting, financing gaps for research and development on cancer, and options that might enhance the affordability and accessibility of these medicines;

(10) to synchronize the periodic report on progress made in implementing this resolution with, and integrate it into, the monitoring and report timeline of the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases, set out in resolution WHA66.10.

Tenth plenary meeting, 31 May 2017
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