

# 2017 cancer

# resolution

Advancing universal health coverage and the sustainable development goals



A MEMBERSHIP ORGANISATION  
FIGHTING CANCER TOGETHER

The 2017 cancer resolution '**Cancer prevention and control in the context of an integrated approach**' provides a framework for countries to take action on cancer by identifying policy opportunities to scale-up access to prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and care services. It also highlights where cancer services support actions on other health agendas including HIV, maternal and child health, adolescents, and the delivery of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

Central to the resolution is that **to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) we need comprehensive and coordinated action to reduce the global burden of cancer**. Achieving this will contribute to success on goal 3.4 and support the delivery of UHC, as well as helping protect vulnerable populations from catastrophic health expenditure.

## Cancer control headlines

- **Cancer is the second leading cause of mortality globally**, accounting for 8.8 million deaths in 2015<sup>1</sup>
- **Access to cancer services is marred by significant inequalities** both within and between countries
  - The poorest socioeconomic groups within countries have the greatest exposure to the five leading cancer risk factors, contributing to around one-third of cancer deaths<sup>2</sup>
  - More than 90% of high-income countries (HICs) have cancer treatment services available, compared to less than 30% of low-income countries (LICs)<sup>3</sup>
- **Cancer is a major barrier to sustainable development**. Around 70% of cancer deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) amongst working-age populations hampering human development through death, disability, and catastrophic out-of-pocket spending<sup>5</sup>
- **The annual economic cost of cancer has already reached US\$1.16tn<sup>4</sup>** and is continuing to rise predominantly due to slow pace of action
- **Cost-effective interventions exist<sup>6</sup> and deliver significant returns on investment**. An investment of US\$11.4bn in core cancer prevention strategies in LMICs could yield a return of US\$100bn from avoided cancer treatment costs<sup>7</sup>.

1. WHO Cancer Fact Sheet (2018) <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs297/en/>

2. WHO Cancer Fact Sheet (2018) <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs297/en/>

3. WHO Cancer Fact Sheet (2018) <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs297/en/>

4. IARC World cancer report (2014) <http://publications.iarc.fr/Non-Series-Publications/World-Cancer-Reports/World-Cancer-Report-2014>

5. R Nugent (2015) Policy Brief Bilateral and multilateral financing for NCDs <http://www.who.int/nmh/ncd-coordination-mechanism/Policybrief5.2docx.pdf>

6. WHO Tackling NCDs (2017) <http://www.who.int/ncds/management/best-buys/en/>

7. Knaul FM, Arreola-Ornelas H, Atun R, Mendez O, Guerrero R, Alsan M, Seinfeld J. Investing in cancer care and control. Chapter 3 in: Knaul FM, Galrow JR, Atun R, Bhadelia A, editors for the Global Task Force on Expanded Access to Cancer Care and Control in Developing Countries. Closing the Cancer Divide: An Equity Imperative. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Global Equity Initiative; 2012. Distributed by Harvard University Press.

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The resolution identifies 22 priority actions, grouped into four key areas (listed below) for countries to systematically strengthen cancer services over time. These should be embedded in national cancer control plans that can drive the introduction or scale-up of services, in line with national priorities and also serve as an important platform to coordinate national stakeholders around common goals.

In addition to the four areas listed below, action on cancer prevention is also highlighted including WHO FCTC implementation (SDG 3.a) and vaccination against cancer-causing infections (SDG 3.b). To find out how action on cancer and NCDs support the SDGs explore the [Global cancer commitments navigator](#) at [uicc.org](http://uicc.org).



### Data

- Collect high-quality data to guide cancer policies and plans
- Promote cancer research to improve the evidence base for cancer prevention and control



### Early Detection

- Develop, implement and monitor programmes for the early diagnosis and screening of common cancers



### Timely and accurate treatment

- Promote availability and affordability of quality, safe and effective medicines, vaccines and diagnostics
- Promote and facilitate cooperation across a health system
- Develop and implement evidence-based guidelines for cancer in children and adults
- Promote referrals and access to comprehensive and cost-effective cancer prevention, diagnostic, treatment and care services



### Supportive and palliative care

- Provide pain relief and palliative care as part of comprehensive cancer care
- Promote cancer survivor follow-up and care, including actively engaging survivors and their relatives
- Promote access to rehabilitation, psychosocial and palliative care services



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