# 5 tips for advancing the NCDs agenda

Language English

WHO Walk the Talk event, May 2018, Geneva. © Gilberto Lontro / NCD Alliance

Following the 2018 UN <u>High-Level Meeting (HLM) on NCDs</u> [1], civil society faces major challenges in moving the NCD agenda forward, noted NCDA CEO Katie Dain at this week's <u>General Meeting of the WHO Global Coordination Mechanism for NCDs</u> [2].

### Dain proposed 5 tips to overcoming the obstacles:

- 1. The civil society movement must stick together no falling back into constituencies and silos, but maintain a shared agenda;
- 2. Make more noise. Be less civil; less polite. Broaden the circle of those shouting about NCDs to include civil society focused on women, environment, education, etc., and leverage the broad SDGs agenda;
- 3. Focus on people, injustice and investment. Invest, invest, invest!
- 4. Civil society should make its own political opportunities, and jump on the bandwagons offered by other communities and political agendas to ensure that NCDs are on those agendas;
- 5. Sharpen the focus on accountability. Governments make grand statements and commitments on NCDs and civil society needs to hold their feet to the fire.

"Make more noise. Be less civil; less polite. Broaden the circle of those shouting about NCDs to include civil society focused on women, environment, education, etc., and leverage the broad SDGs agenda." - NCDA CEO Katie Dain

## She also shared her takeaways from the HLM on NCDs:

- Governments agreed that they are off track to meet Target 3.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals to, by 2030 reduce NCD mortality by one-third;
- The NCD agenda has been expanded from 4x4 (diseases and risk factors) to 5x5 with the addition of mental and neurological conditions and air pollution;

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- There are no new, substantive time-bound commitments in the HLM's Political Declaration [3];
- No major new resources have been invested in NCDs, despite financing remaining the Achilles heel for NCDs;
- Seven years remain till the fourth HLM. This will be the longest timespan between HLMs, which creates a huge challenge in maintaining momentum.

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- [2] http://www.who.int/global-coordination-mechanism/events/2018-gcm-general-meeting-web-streaming/en/
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