

## Civil society calls for urgent and sustained leadership and action on NCDs at the 2018 UN High-level Meeting and beyond

Language English



Workshop discussion on Sunday 9 December 2017, second Global NCD Alliance Forum, Sharjah (UAE). © Gilberto Lontro

### NETWORK RELEASE

#### **Global NCD Alliance Forum 2017 held in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates (UAE), 9-11 December 2017**

**14 December 2017, Sharjah (UAE)** - The second Global NCD Alliance Forum in Sharjah (UAE) closed on Monday 11 December with a feeling of energy and optimism despite the sizeable challenges that will have to be overcome to ensure that the 2018 UN High-level Meeting on NCDs delivers sustained leadership and action on NCDs. 350 civil society representatives from across the NCD community and spanning 68 countries, including people living with NCDs and youth delegates, discussed strategies to make the voice of the NCD community heard at the highest political levels.

“The energy and enthusiasm I felt in this room assures me that we, the NCD community, are ready for the challenge that lies ahead – we will not let this opportunity escape from us,” said NCD Alliance CEO Katie Dain in her closing remarks. “We will not be polite. We will hold our governments accountable to the commitments they have made, and demand action.”

The Forum’s programme included taking stock of the NCD movement, discussions on breaking down silos for sustainable development, and equipping civil society to fulfil its roles in the NCD response. Workshop streams focused on advocacy, building synergies, and sharing tools and strategies.

“A unified and energised NCD civil society movement is necessary for a successful third United Nations High-level Meeting on NCDs in 2018,” NCD Alliance President and Executive Director of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, José Luis Castro, told delegates in his closing speech, adding, “civil society must be a part of the process in order to drive an ambitious outcome that brings us closer to achieving our global NCD and health goals.”

As in 2015, NCD Alliance co-hosted the Forum with local partner Friends of Cancer Patients (FoCP). The Forum could not have been possible without the support of Her Highness Sheikha Jawaher bint Mohammed Al Qasimi, Wife of the Ruler

of Sharjah, Founder and Patron of Friends of Cancer Patients (FoCP), International Ambassador for the World Cancer Declaration of the Union for International Cancer Control and International Ambassador for Childhood Cancer for the Union for International Cancer Control, and Patron of the Global NCD Alliance Forum.

The three-day gathering in Sharjah featured the launches of the [Advocacy Agenda of PLWNCDs](#) [1] – part of the [Our Views, Our Voices](#) [2] initiative – and the [NCD Civil Society Atlas](#) [3], which spotlights 38 case studies of national and regional civil society initiatives on NCDs. In addition, a draft set of campaign priorities for the 2018 HLM were shared with delegates and were the basis of discussion.

At the first Global NCD Alliance Forum in Sharjah in 2015, civil society adopted the [Sharjah Declaration](#) [4], committing to accelerate national and regional NCD action. This year, four civil society representatives from Tanzania, East Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean received the Sharjah Awards for Excellence in NCD Civil Society Action, recognising their most impactful practices around access, accountability, advocacy and awareness. The winning initiatives, and three dozen other projects are documented in the NCD Civil Society Atlas.

At the closing ceremony, NCDA Board Member Sir George Alleyne, stated that delegates should celebrate the optimism and enthusiasm of the Forum, yet they should also leave with a sense of moral outrage because of the devastating death and disability caused by NCDs.

Youth delegates, who also gathered for a Pre-Forum meeting, released a [Call to Action](#) [5] on Monday 11 December. “As young people,” it said, “we bring unique experiences and perspectives to health agendas and have a right to negotiate the future health of the communities in which we live.

“Ahead of next year’s HLM, advocates must ensure that the priorities of young people are heard and acted upon at every level and that governments are held accountable to their NCD commitments,” continued the Call to Action.

Read daily blogs featuring Forum programme:

9 December: [Consensus building around 2018 HLM on NCDs advocacy priorities](#) [6]

10 December: [Putting a voice to NCDs while breaking out of silos](#) [7]

11 December: [NCD Community: be informed, inspired, incentivised, indignant, & incensed](#) [8]

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## Links

[1] <https://ncdalliance.org/resources/advocacy-agenda-of-people-living-with-ncds-0>

[2] <https://ncdalliance.org/what-we-do/capacity-development/our-views-our-voices>

[3] <https://ncdalliance.org/resources/ncd-atlas>

[4] <https://ncdalliance.org/resources/sharjah-declaration-on-ncds>

[5] <https://ncdalliance.org/sites/default/files/NCDAF2017%20Call%20to%20Action%20for%20Youth%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

[6] <https://ncdalliance.org/news-events/blog/consensus-building-around-2018-hlm-on-ncds-advocacy-priorities>

[7] <https://ncdalliance.org/news-events/blog/putting-a-voice-to-ncds-while-breaking-out-of-silos>

[8] <https://ncdalliance.org/news-events/blog/ncd-community-be-informed-inspired-incentivised-indignant-incensed>

[9] <https://old.ncdalliance.org/taxonomy/term/27>