

NCD Alliance Statement – WHO Engagement with Non-State Actors

Chairperson, distinguished delegates, colleagues,

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver this statement on behalf of the World Heart Federation and the NCD Alliance – an alliance that unites 2,000 civil society organisations in 170 countries working collectively to transform the fight against non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Engagement with non-state actors is a critical aspect of WHO's role in global health governance. We welcome this initiative to develop a comprehensive policy that will enhance engagement with non-state actors, improve transparency, due diligence and the management of risks, including conflicts of interest. We thank the WHO Director-General for the opportunity to contribute and be part of this important meeting.

The commitment, experience and capacity of civil society organisations is critical to advancing global health. Organisations, such as WHF and the NCD Alliance, are key partners to WHO, playing a key role in advocacy and awareness, providing technical and scientific expertise, ensuring patient engagement and monitoring policy. For this reason the NCD Alliance is supportive of proposals to facilitate more meaningful participation of NGOs in WHO governing bodies and in consultations.

In addition to the changes proposed in the WHO Discussion Paper, the NCD Alliance recommends the following:

- Ensure clear and well organised timelines for WHO consultations, with documents available well in advance of deadlines. This will ensure NGOs can plan, engage and fully participate;
- Increase use of public hearings and encourage Member State Consultations to include NGOs as observers. This has proven effective in the WHO consultations on the Global Monitoring Framework for NCDs and Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020; and
- Organise WHO consultation timelines so that civil society consultations precede those with Member States, following the successful model piloted in the development of the Mental Health Global Action Plan (MHGAP).

Finally, we wish to underline the importance of a revised policy for WHO's engagement with non-state actors for the evolving Global Coordination Mechanism for NCDs. NCDs are a multisectoral issue and WHO urgently needs the appropriate tools and policies in place to effectively engage a broad range of stakeholders. Partnerships with stakeholders from both the public and private sectors will be critical, in order to translate political commitments into real meaningful and sustained action on NCDs.

Thank you.

The NCD Alliance was founded by:

