Statement at the 71st World Health Assembly:

Agenda Item 12.4: mHealth: [Use of appropriate digital technologies for public health](#)

This statement is delivered on behalf of UICC, supported by the NCD Alliance.

We welcome the report and its recognition of mHealth as a powerful tool to drive the response to NCDs and other public health challenges, including through supporting implementation of WHO Best Buys and integration of programmes to address NCDs and communicable diseases, to accelerate progress towards WHO and SDG targets on NCDs and UHC. The greatest assets of mHealth are its scalability, enabling it to be used as a tool for primary NCD prevention across populations; and its versatility, allowing interventions to be tailored for individuals and empowering them to self-care for single or co-morbid chronic conditions. MHealth thus has the potential to complement existing methods of health care delivery and to greatly reduce the burden on health systems.

The NCD Alliance is a proud partner of the Be He@lthy, Be Mobile initiative, and commends the leadership of WHO and ITU in this truly multisectoral collaboration from global to country level, exemplifying what is needed in the wider NCD response. Through such innovation, as the burden of NCDs grows, so do advances in mHealth. To ensure these advances are leveraged effectively, we call on WHO and Member States to:

1. Create platforms at national or regional level to evaluate existing mHealth tools and to validate those which are safe and effective, reducing duplicity and scaling up good practice;
2. Educate health care professionals on how mHealth can be used to complement existing care practices, and provide guidance for integrating validated mHealth interventions into health systems;
3. Carefully regulate use of mHealth tools to ensure protection and proper use of personal data.

We commend the leadership of India in drafting the resolution. The 2018 UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs offers an opportunity to garner greater political commitment to leveraging mHealth for the NCD response, and we stand ready to elevate dialogue to this level.