



Agenda item 11.2 Follow-up to the high-level meetings of the United Nations General Assembly on health-related issues

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Thank you chair.

In spite of the commitments to UHC and NCDs the more than 1.7 billion people living with NCDs are being failed during the COVID-19 pandemic. **As long as essential health services are out of reach for people living with NCDs, UHC is out of reach for us all.**

We urgently call on Member States and Global Action Plan on SDG3 signatories to:

- Act on the increasing prevalence of NCDs and co-morbidities with communicable, maternal and child conditions as part of a life-course approach.
- Integrate NCDs into UHC and PHC across prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, and palliative care. Ensuring strong referral networks to other levels of health system as part of a patient-centred approach.
- Champion NCD prevention in national PHC strategies and investment, recognising the strategies contained in the WHO's 'Best Buys' for NCDs are among the most cost-effective health investments. We also encourage Member States to integrate cervical cancer elimination and consider the importance of nutrition interventions and utilise the Guidance on Nutrition in Universal Health Coverage
- Ensure people-centred health systems by meaningfully involving PLWNCDs and civil society within policy, decision making and accountability.

The death toll of COVID-19 caused by disrupted NCD care, will likely be higher than the toll of the virus itself. Emergency response cannot be an 'either/or' decision between communicable disease and NCDs. **We will not fully recover from this pandemic, nor be prepared for future health threats, if you do not Act on NCDs.**