

## NCD Alliance Advocacy Briefing: 68<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly

18- 26 May 2015

This briefing note provides background and key advocacy messages on the NCD Alliance's main priorities for the 68<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly (WHA) including the Global Coordination Mechanism for NCDs (GCM/NCDs), NCDs and health in the post-2015 development agenda, the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), and the WHO Framework of engagement with non-state actors (NSA).

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### Agenda Item 13: Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs)

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#### Item 13.4: Follow up to the UN High-Level Review on NCDs

The 2014 UN NCD Review signalled an important shift from a global dialogue to national action and implementation. The 68<sup>th</sup> WHA is an opportunity to promote commitments made at the UN Review, encourage Member States to accelerate progress, and ensure that WHO and other international partners step up support country-level work.

#### Key messages:

- **Implementing commitments:** We urge Member States to fully implement the national commitments made in the 2014 UN NCD Review Outcome Document, including by 2015 to establish national NCD targets, national multisectoral NCD plans, and national NCD commissions.
- **Monitoring progress:** We support the development of a set of 10 “progress indicators” to measure progress against the time-bound commitments in the 2014 Outcome Document. While these progress indicators could have been more ambitious, they are an important tool for measuring country-level progress and ensuring greater accountability for NCDs ahead of the 3<sup>rd</sup> UN NCD Review in 2018.
- **Global Coordination Mechanism on NCDs (GCM/NCD):** We encourage the two working groups on financing and the role of the private sector to produce concrete, actionable recommendations capable of effecting change at the country-level. In addition, future GCM Dialogues and the General Meeting planned for 2017 should allow for the full and meaningful engagement of civil society.
- **Registry of commitments:** We welcome the Secretariat's work to develop an approach to register and publish contributions made by the private sector, philanthropic entities, and civil society toward the achievement of the global NCD targets. We encourage a framework that both incentivises stakeholders and is based on rigorous selection and regular reporting of commitments.

#### Item 13.3: Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2):

In November 2014, WHO and FAO convened the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2). The aim of the conference was to assess progress made since ICN1 (1992); and to address global nutrition challenges by identifying policy options ahead of the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda. Member States adopted the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and a Framework for Action, which recognise the need to act on *malnutrition in all its forms*, including overweight/obesity and diet-related NCDs.

#### Key messages:

- **Endorsement of the Rome Declaration:** We urge the WHA to endorse the Rome Declaration and the ICN2 Framework for Action;
- **Governance:** We note that the WHA report makes no reference to governance for nutrition post-ICN2. The December FAO Council report contains a clear proposal for the Committee on Food Security (CFS) to become the mechanism for ICN2 follow-up. We also understand plans are underway to move the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition (UN SCN) to Rome. We request WHA position itself vis-à-vis the FAO proposal and elaborate on WHO's role in global nutrition governance post-ICN2.
- **Accountability:** We support the WHA paper's recommendation for reporting on follow-up to the ICN2 at WHA and Regional Committees on a biennial basis. We urge Member States to work with the WHO Secretariat to translate ICN2 commitments into clear targets and indicators harmonised with existing monitoring frameworks, and integrate them into national monitoring frameworks.

- **Decade for Action:** We urge Member States to discuss the Decade for Action referred to in paragraph 31 and to support efforts underway in New York to ensure sustained and coordinated action for nutrition for a period of at least ten years, based on a roadmap jointly developed by the WHO and FAO Director-Generals and reporting into the UN General Assembly.

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## Agenda Item 11: WHO Reform

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### Item: 11.2: Framework of engagement with non-State actors

A central element of WHO's governance reform is to develop a framework for engagement with non-state actors (NSAs). The framework was discussed at the 136<sup>th</sup> Executive Board, which decided that further work was required. The Open-ended Intergovernmental Meeting (30 March-1 April) did not reach consensus, thus we expect an annotated revised framework will be put forward to a drafting group at WHA.

#### Key Messages:

- **Accept NGO secondments:** WHO is under-resourced, particularly for NCD prevention and control, which remains one of the largest funding gaps in the WHO programme budget 2014-2015. NSAs, particularly NGOs and academia, have a wealth of expertise that could be effectively leveraged by WHO through secondments. We therefore urge Member States, in paragraph 46 of the proposed framework, to consider allowing for secondments from non-private sector entities.
- **Adopt the NSA Framework:** The NCD Alliance encourages the adoption of the framework at the 68<sup>th</sup> WHA.

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## Agenda Item 14: Promoting health through the life course

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### Item 14.2: Health in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Negotiations to agree the post-2015 development agenda are in the final phase, with Member States to adopt the final post-2015 agenda this September. Achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs) will require ambitious commitments for NCDs and health in all elements of the post-2015 agenda, including the related outcomes of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (13-16 July, Addis Ababa).

#### Key messages:

- **Ambitious commitments for NCDs and health in all elements of the final post-2015 agenda:** Member States should adopt a Declaration with a strong reference to health (physical and mental health) and wellbeing as a pre-requisite, outcome, and indicator of sustainable development. The means of implementation and global partnership for development should include increasing both human and financial resources for health, as well as supporting increased access to essential medicines, technologies and vaccines, through strengthened, dynamic partnerships for health based on integrated approaches.
- **Promote health and NCDs within Financing for Development (FfD) process and outcomes:** Member States should include clear, specific commitments in the Addis outcome document to increase domestic public financing for health and NCDs, mobilise adequate and sustained international public financing, and strengthen multisectoral and multistakeholder partnerships. The Addis Accord should specifically recognise effective increases in tobacco taxes, as part of implementing the Framework Convention of Tobacco Control (FCTC), as a relatively reliable source of domestic revenue that also improves health outcomes. Strong references to TRIPS flexibilities and access to affordable medicines and vaccines are also important in order to improve health outcomes and increase country capacity to respond to NCDs.
- **Engage in the process to develop global indicators for the SDGs:** Member States should engage with the UN Statistical Commission's Inter-agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals (IAEG-SDG) as they continue their work to develop and agree a limited set of global indicators for the SDGs by march 2016. The new global monitoring framework should be consistent whenever possible with existing monitoring frameworks for NCDs, including the WHO Global NCD Monitoring Framework, and the global monitoring framework for universal health coverage (UHC). Special attention should be paid to improving national statistical capacities to increase the availability and strengthen the quality of data.