

WHF Statement on Agenda Item 5(a): Roadmap to Implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Honourable chair, distinguished delegates,

The World Heart Federation welcomes the Roadmap presented by the Committee Report and its five strategic directions. We support the Draft Resolution, and commend its alignment with the Global Action Plan for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (or NCDs).

As the report outlines, NCDs account for 86% of premature mortality in the region. Of these deaths, cardiovascular diseases (or CVDs) are the biggest killers, accounting for more than half of all deaths across the region.¹

Without addressing CVD and NCDs, EURO Member States will not achieve Goal 3 of the Sustainable Development Goals. However, recent global partnerships present timely opportunities to tackle CVD, and to strengthen implementation of both Health 2020 and the 2030 Agenda.

For example last year WHO, alongside the World Heart Federation and other partners, launched the Global HEARTS initiative, a technical package for CVD management in primary health care being piloted in 8 countries.²

This partnership represents an unprecedented alignment among stakeholders in global CVD management, and we stand ready to offer policy, technical and implementation support to EURO Member States.

To support implementation of the Resolution, and to complement ongoing progress to tackle CVD & NCDs in the region, we make 3 recommendations:

1. **Implement affordable and cost-effective interventions to address NCDs at the primary health care level**, as outlined in the WHO Global HEARTS Technical Package and Appendix 3.³
2. **Increase resources dedicated to tackling NCDs** through sustainable measures such as taxes on tobacco and sugar-sweetened beverages. Among the WHO regions Europe has the highest tobacco use among adults; increasing taxation can reduce CVD risk factors and fund other interventions.
3. And thirdly, **we call on Member States to attend the WHO Global Conference on NCDs hosted by the President of Uruguay in October**. This meeting represents a unique opportunity to strengthen policy coherence on NCDs across different Ministries ahead of the UN High-level Meeting next year.

Thank you for your attention.

¹ <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/noncommunicable-diseases/cardiovascular-diseases/data-and-statistics>

² <http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/252661/1/9789241511377-eng.pdf?ua=1>

³ http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB140/B140_27-en.pdf?ua=1