

RECOMMENDATIONS ON GLOBAL ACTION TO PREVENT AND CONTROL NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The Framework Convention Alliance (FCA) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to WHO's consultations on the commitments made in the UN Political Declaration issued at the High-level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs)¹ and on the development of the NCD Global Monitoring Framework and the Global Action Plan on NCDs (2013-2020).

FCA congratulates WHO Member States in the European Region for their determination to tackle NCDs, and welcomes the decision of the World Health Assembly on a global target to reduce premature NCD mortality by 25 per cent by 2025². Noting that tobacco use is the one risk factor common to the main groups of NCDs and that the prevalence of tobacco smoking among adults in the European Region is nearly 29 per cent, the highest out of all six WHO regions³, FCA wishes to reiterate its full support for the efforts of Member States and the WHO to strengthen the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and its implementation.

FCA encourages WHO and its Member States in the European Region to finalise a comprehensive and ambitious Global Monitoring Framework and Action Plan. The UN Political Declaration recognises that prevention must be the cornerstone of the global response to NCDs. Since a framework for multi-sectoral and comprehensive action on tobacco control exists – the **WHO FCTC** – FCA calls for explicit recognition of the Convention, its Conference of the Parties (COP) and reporting instrument in all key global tools to prevent and control NCDs.

In particular, FCA calls on WHO Member States to:

1. Ensure inclusion and promotion of all FCTC measures within the WHO Global Action Plan on NCDs

In the UN Political Declaration and the Moscow Declaration on NCDs, governments committed to accelerate implementation of the FCTC and encouraged countries that have not yet done so to become Parties to the Convention. The WHO Global Action Plan on NCDs (2013-2020) should promote comprehensive implementation of the FCTC.

2. Establish tobacco control indicators within the NCD Global Monitoring Framework

The NCD Global Monitoring Framework should reflect the commitments of the UN Political Declaration on NCDs and contain process and impact indicators. Development of specific indicators on implementation of policy measures contained in the WHO FCTC will allow monitoring of the High-level Meeting's commitments to prevent and control NCDs.

3. Explicitly recognise the FCTC COP and its reporting instrument within global actions on NCDs

All key tools to prevent and control NCDs, such as the Global Action Plan and the Monitoring Framework, should explicitly recognise the role of the FCTC Conference of the Parties (COP) as the primary global forum for discussions on tobacco control implementation and accountability. Moreover, to avoid parallel international systems for data collection on tobacco control, further efforts should be made to harmonise WHO and FCTC COP reporting mechanisms.

The Framework Convention Alliance is made up of over 350 non-governmental organisations from more than 100 countries working on the development, ratification and implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).

¹ Resolution of the UN General Assembly A/RES/66/2

² WHO decision WHA65(8)

³ WHO. 2011. Global Status Report on Noncommunicable Diseases. Geneva: WHO