



WFSA
WORLD FEDERATION OF SOCIETIES OF
ANAESTHESIOLOGISTS

World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists

STATEMENT: AGENDA ITEM 5.o, Category 2: NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES (68TH SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE)

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The World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists (WFSA) commends the work of the Regional Committee in addressing the global Non-communicable Diseases crisis and welcomes the Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs in the WHO European Region, Resolution 11.

The WFSA represents hundreds of thousands of anaesthesiologists in 150 countries. We work with our member societies to achieve universal access to safe anaesthesia, directly contributing to SDG 3 and UHC by 2030. We unequivocally supported WHA Resolution 68.15: Strengthening emergency and essential surgical care and anaesthesia as a component of UHC, and were proud to be one of 5 non-state actors in official liaison with WHO highlighted in the 2017 progress report.

As a significant number of NCDs are not preventable, WFSA is concerned that the Action Plan places a large emphasis on prevention, which alone will not solve this issue, overlooking the need for detection and treatment which may in turn require anaesthesia, surgery, perioperative and palliative care. Diagnosis, treatment and management represent a critical strategy for successfully addressing NCDs.

Virtually all NCDs will require a surgical intervention over the life-course, thus health systems must be able to provide safe, affordable anaesthesia, surgery, perioperative and palliative care in order to achieve UHC. The provision of anaesthesia and surgical care has long been neglected and it is estimated that, each year, more than four times as many people die from surgically treatable conditions than from HIV, TB and malaria combined.

Prevention is paramount, but can only be part of any strategy to combat NCDs. We call on the Regional Committee for Europe to continue to raise the priority accorded to the appropriate diagnosis, treatment and management of NCDs within global, regional and national policy. With the global epidemic of premature deaths from NCDs set to rise, it is essential that we have a comprehensive approach at this critical and defining moment.