



**ESMO Statement for the  
70<sup>th</sup> Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe (virtual)  
14-15 September 2020**

**Agenda Item 6: Progress Reports under ‘Strategic Priority/Pillar 1. One billion more people benefitting from universal health coverage’: Mid-term evaluation of implementation of the Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases in the WHO European Region 2016–2025**

Honourable Chair, Esteemed Delegates,

The [European Society for Medical Oncology \(ESMO\)](#) is the leading professional organisation for medical oncology. It is the society of reference for oncology education and information. Our membership is comprised of more than 25,000 oncology professionals from over 160 countries, and more than 50% of our membership is in Europe.

ESMO welcomes WHO Europe’s **Mid-term evaluation of implementation of the Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases in the WHO European Region 2016–2025**.

We are pleased to learn about the Report’s good news that the Region ‘as a whole’ is well on its way to achieve:

- The WHO Global NCD Action Plan target of the relative reduction of premature mortality from four NCDs of 25% by 2025, and
- The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal target 3.4 to reduce premature mortality from NCDs by one third by 2030.

We commend the WHO Europe Member States on their continued efforts to achieve these goals on time.

We call on the 18 WHO Member States that are not on track to achieve the targets, and the 7 countries where a lack of data makes progress monitoring difficult, to accelerate their actions to achieve the commitments they made publicly at WHO and UN meetings to reduce the burden of NCDs by 2025 and 2030.

As a professional academic society composed of cancer professionals, we would like to raise awareness that:

- While achieving the NCD targets as a ‘Region’ is commendable, it should not be a substitute for each country’s responsibility to fully achieve the NCD targets at the national level.
- The target of reducing premature deaths from NCDs must be achieved for each NCD, and not just by addressing one or two NCD disease areas, leaving other NCD patients behind.
- To achieve the targets to reduce deaths from cancer, governments should accelerate the implementation of the 2017 World Health Assembly Cancer Resolution.
- Universal Health Coverage is essential to achieving the goals of the WHO Global NCD Action Plan, and the progress of WHO Europe Member States towards achieving it by 2030 should be continually monitored and reported.

We understand that achieving the ambitious targets of the WHO Global NCD Action Plan for the European Region requires collaboration from all stakeholders. Therefore, ESMO takes this opportunity to communicate to WHO Europe and its Member States that we stand ready to share our expertise, recommendations, tools, and resources on cancer management to support them in achieving the goals of the NCD Action Plan in Europe.

Thank you.