

# The NCD Alliance

Putting non-communicable diseases  
on the global agenda

## **Adoption of UN global NCD targets and indicators heralds major step forward in the fight against NCDs**

*UN Member States have agreed the first ever comprehensive Global Monitoring Framework for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), including a set of voluntary global targets and indicators, at a three-day meeting held from 5-7 November at the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva, Switzerland.*

The approved set of nine global targets and 25 indicators is a milestone achievement and sends the strong message that all countries are committed to achieving their ambition to reduce premature deaths from NCDs by 25% by 2025.

The NCD Alliance and its partners have been pushing for a comprehensive approach to the Global Monitoring Framework since discussions began immediately after the UN High-level Meeting on NCDs in September 2011. [N.B. we started pushing for targets in May 2011...in the lead up to the Summit. And after governments failed to agree targets at the Summit, we scaled up our advocacy efforts and kept pressure on WHO and governments to ensure a comprehensive set of targets were agreed that balanced prevention, treatment and care and matched the scale and complexity of the global epidemic]

Mr Cary Adams, Chair of the NCD Alliance and CEO of the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) said, "We are proud to witness the first set of global targets and indicators that signal a new era of accountability for the millions of people with NCDs worldwide. We commend WHO and Member States for agreeing a comprehensive set of targets that balance both prevention and treatment."

Johanna Ralston, CEO of the World Heart Federation further iterated, "we have been inspired by Member States' willingness to address NCDs as a public health priority. There was a real spirit in the negotiation room for Member States wanting the best for their own people. They have heeded the advice of the NCD Alliance and signed off a list of truly bold and ambitious targets that will inspire global action and accountability on NCDs."

In May this year the first target "to reduce preventable death from NCDs by 25% by 2025" (the '25 by 25' target) was adopted at the World Health Assembly. The other eight global targets agreed this week cover prevention (tobacco, physical inactivity, alcohol salt, raised blood pressure, and diabetes/obesity) and the health system response (improving the availability of essential medicines and technologies, and counselling and drug therapy for the prevention of heart attack and stroke).

Ann Keeling, CEO of the International Diabetes Federation and Founding Chair of the NCD Alliance, said "we had to fight to get a target on access to essential medicines onto the negotiating table and then keep it there. As millions of people with NCDs are without access to lifesaving medicines and technologies today, this is truly a lifesaving target and a breakthrough for the global NCD community."

With these targets and indicators finalised, the focus will now turn to the 2013-2020 Global Action Plan on NCDs and its implementation, which is currently being drafted by WHO and Member States.

Nils Billo, the Executive Director of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease went on to say that, "Only by aligning these building blocks will we secure a comprehensive, coordinated Global NCD Framework. The targets should be used as a starting point in defining the action points in the Plan, and be integrated to monitor progress, but we also want to see the Plan go beyond this, embrace a multisectoral approach, and involve more UN agencies and civil society."

The NCD Alliance has offered WHO and Member States our expert input in developing the Global Action Plan together for the World Health Assembly 2013.”

The NCD Alliance, a network of over 2,000 civil society organisations from over 170 countries, has committed their expertise and knowledge to support Member States taking this Global Monitoring Framework forward into an equally bold and comprehensive Global Action Plan for NCDs for 2013-2020.

## Ends

### About the NCD Alliance

The NCD Alliance was founded by the International Diabetes Federation, the Union for International Cancer Control, the World Heart Federation and the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union).

The NCD Alliance is a network of more than 2,000 organisations leading the global civil society movement against premature death and preventable illness and disability from non-communicable diseases (NCDs), including cancer, cardiovascular diseases, chronic respiratory disease, and diabetes. These conditions share common risk factors including tobacco use, physical inactivity, unhealthy diets, and harmful alcohol use. The NCD Alliance aims to ensure that NCDs are central to the next generation of global development goals.

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The NCD Alliance was founded by:

