

72nd Session of the World Health Assembly, 20 – 28 May 2019, Geneva

Agenda item 11.1: Proposed programme budget 2020–2021

Response to Documents A72/4, A72/5, A72/INF./2 and A72/INF./3

Honourable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver this statement on behalf of the World Heart Federation, supported by the NCD Alliance.

We commend the efforts of the Director-General to deliver the proposed budget. We appreciate the need to demonstrate accountability by monitoring progress across the triple billion goals and all targets under SDG3.

NCDs accounted for 73% of all global deaths in 2017, with over half of all deaths (28.8 million) attributable to just four risk factors: high blood pressure, smoking, high blood glucose, and high body-mass index. The NCD Countdown 2030 initiative shows a higher probability of dying before 70 years of age in 164 countries from an NCD than from communicable, maternal, perinatal, and nutritional conditions combined.

Furthermore, people rarely live with just one health condition. It is far more common to live with multiple chronic conditions, both noncommunicable and communicable. It is therefore pressing to rapidly transition from a disease-siloed approach to a budget that funds NCD prevention programmes addressing all risk factors, including air pollution and malnutrition.

We call on Member States and WHO to ensure adequate resources to meet increasing demand for technical assistance for both NCD prevention (healthier populations pillar) and control (UHC pillar).

We also ask you to engage with donors to increase support for improved data collection and analysis, to feed into monitoring and measurement as a strong basis for targeted interventions with maximum benefit. In particular, comprehensive indicators should consider the burden of NCDs including and beyond cancers, cardiovascular, respiratory conditions and diabetes, especially mental health conditions (not only suicide as an indicator). Finally, civil society and people living with NCDs should be consulted in the ongoing development of the Healthier population index.

Thank you.