



Agenda item 11.1 Primary health care

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This statement is delivered on behalf of UICC, supported by the NCD Alliance.

We welcome the development of the operational framework and the political momentum behind primary health care (PHC), recognising its critical importance as the foundation for universal health coverage (UHC). Effective cancer and NCD control start with strong PHC. Cancer and other NCDs are often and erroneously thought of as diseases that can be managed only in tertiary health facilities. This is not the case. Prevention programmes, early detection, diagnosis, treatment, and palliative care for cancer and other NCDs are only effective with strong PHC.

To support the implementation of the operational framework we call on Member States to:

- **Champion NCD prevention in national PHC strategies and investment**, recognising the prevention strategies contained in the WHO's 'Best Buys' for NCDs are among the most cost-effective health investments that Member States can implement. We also encourage Member States to consider the importance of nutrition interventions and utilise the Guidance on Nutrition in Universal Health Coverage.
- **Integrate screening, early detection, and diagnostic services** as identified, for example, in the Global Strategy for the Elimination of Cervical Cancer. The early diagnosis of cancer and other NCDs can increase survival and reduce treatment costs to individuals and health systems.
- **Establish strong referral networks to other levels of the health system** as part of a patient-centred approach to health that encompasses the continuum of care.
- **Ensure the meaningful involvement of people living with NCDs and civil society** in the development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of PHC strategies nationally. Recognised as a core lever in the framework, it will be essential to ensure the voices of vulnerable groups are represented as part of an effective lifecourse approach to health which leaves no one behind.