

Sharjah Youth Statement
on NCD Advocacy and Accountability in the Post-2015 Era

15 November 2015

The global burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) threatens the health, wellbeing and prosperity of all people everywhere. National governments, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations (UN) and civil society organizations all recognize the need to prevent, treat and manage these diseases and address their social determinants, reduce exposure to risk factors, and build stronger and more sustainable health systems. Doing so is essential to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda), including its target to reduce premature deaths from NCDs by one third¹. Investing in efforts to reduce the global NCD burden will improve health outcomes and accelerate the achievement of today's most pressing development priorities.

Therefore, we youth representatives at the first Global NCD Alliance Forum 2015 assembled in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates on November 13-15, hereby endorse the Sharjah Declaration and express this statement in support of the Declaration.

1. We acknowledge the global burden and threat of NCDs as one of the leading challenges for sustainable development and social justice in our lifetime, which undermines social and economic development and entrenches inequity throughout the world.
2. We recognize the important leadership and stewardship role of Governments in responding to the challenge of NCDs, but also emphasize the necessity to engage all sectors of society, including civil society, in generating effective responses for the prevention and control of NCDs.
3. We highlight the impact young professionals, patient advocacy groups and civil society organizations has already had on the NCD agenda, and therefore encourage this work to continue further through opening spaces and providing opportunities for meaningful participation of young people in the effort to combat NCDs at the local, national and global level.
4. We assert the importance of accountability, transparency and avoidance of conflict of interests in ensuring the success of the global NCD movement, and therefore emphasize on the need for greater capacity building, especially of young advocates, for monitoring national, regional and global NCD commitments.
5. We thank Her Highness Sheikha Jawaher bint Mohammed Al Qasimi, Wife of the Ruler of Sharjah, Founder and Patron of Friends of Cancer Patients (FoCP), International Ambassador of the World Cancer Declaration for Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) and International Ambassador for Childhood Cancer for UICC, for hosting the first Global NCD Alliance Forum and ensuring the inclusion of youth in this event, and also encourage other world leaders to continue to prioritise the voices of youth patients and advocates in similar global, regional and national forums.

We have come together united in our support for the 2030 Agenda, and commit to doing our part to accelerate action and increase accountability as we collectively address NCDs. We express our commitment to the Sharjah Declaration and the continued engagement of young people in shaping a future with reduced death and disability caused by NCDs. Today we are given a tremendous opportunity to chart a new course toward equitable, sustainable, and healthy future for all.

Signatories:

Mohammad Y. Al-Bahar (Kuwait Diabetes Society, International Diabetes Federation)

DY Suharya (Alzheimer Indonesia, Alzheimer's Disease International)

Hasna Pradityas (Indonesia Smoke-Free Agents)

Bernadette Fellarika Nusarrivera (Smoke Free Jakarta-Indonesia)

Dr. Phyo Naing Zay (HelpAge International Myanmar)

Dr. Renzo Guinto (#ReimagineGlobalHealth, Philippines and World Heart Federation Emerging Leaders Program)

Roman Vlasenko (International Diabetes Association of Ukraine)

Mellany Murgor (Young Professionals Chronic Disease Network)

Dr. Cristobal Cuadrado (Frente por un Chile Saludable – Coalition for a Healthy Chile)

Juliette Wittich (NCDFREE)

Jack Fisher (NCDFREE)

Laura Booi (Alzheimer's Disease International)

Michelle Ballasiotes (American Heart Association)

Jordan Jarvis (Young Professionals Chronic Disease Network)

Oluwafunmilola James Wonsebolatan (Breast Without Spots / ACS Global Scholars Programme / Young Professionals Chronic Disease Network)

Abish Romero (World Heart Foundation)