

69th World Health Assembly Statement
Union for International Cancer Control on behalf of NCD Alliance
Agenda Item 13.6: Role of the health sector in the sound management of
chemicals

Honourable chairperson, distinguished delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver this statement on behalf of Union for International Cancer Control and NCD Alliance - a global civil society network united against NCDs.

We strongly support the proposed resolution [on the *Role of the Health Sector in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management towards the 2020 goal and beyond*]. While the safe management of chemicals has to date not been a central component of the NCD response, there is a growing body of evidence that suggests exposure to harmful chemicals leads to increased likelihood of developing NCDs, including but not limited to cancer and mental and neurological disorders. NCD Alliance strongly supports the development of the proposed roadmap and call on Member States to:

- **Consider NCDs in the development of the proposed roadmap:** Links between NCDs, not least cancer and neurological disorders, and exposure to harmful chemicals have been documented and should be highlighted in the proposed roadmap.
- **Invest in research and dissemination of data:** While data exists for certain NCDs such as cancers, links between exposure to chemicals, including endocrine disrupting chemicals, and NCDs such as diabetes and metabolic disorders are less well defined. Investment in gathering and disseminating a broader body of evidence is needed to support an informed and coordinated response.
- **Include civil society in the development and implementation of the roadmap:** Civil society has unique and valuable competencies, not least in technical expertise, advocacy and independent accountability, which will be essential for the development of the roadmap and its implementation.

NCD Alliance stands ready to support WHO and Member States in establishing and strengthening the role of the health sector in the sound management of chemicals. Thank you for your attention.