



22 May 2017

70th Session of the World Health Assembly

Agenda Item: 15.1: Preparation for the third High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, to be held in 2018

Honorable Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the World Medical Association, which represents more than 9 million physicians in over 100 countries.

As physicians and health advocates, we are quite concerned with the rapidly grown prevalence of non-communicable diseases worldwide and their health, social and economic implications.

We appreciate the great effort that is carried out by WHO to tackle this major issue. WMA welcome another high-level meeting on NCDs and we hope that there will be further progress toward implementing the time-bound national commitments by the Member States to better control this global health burden.

The WMA believes that physicians involvement in the prevention and control of NCDs is crucial to achieve concrete measurable results and expand the national capacity of each country. Therefore, we call for Member States to involve their physicians and other health professionals in setting and achieving their national targets, commitments and health promotion programs.

WMA is glad to see that health care system strengthening is an important part of WHO's strategy in the fight against NCDs, together with a multisectoral response on national and global levels by considering the sustainable development goals and universal health coverage factors. Such approach is a critical strategy to monitor and control NCDs and their risk factors.

In 2011, through the World Health Professions Alliance, we released a health improvement card to help individuals and their healthcare professionals to reduce the risk of NCDs and since then we continued to work with our National Medical Associations and other stakeholders to prevent and relieve the burden of NCDs and address the social determinants of health.

The WMA is committed to tackle NCDs and is ready to support WHO in the preparation process for the upcoming high level UN meeting and other conferences.

Thank you for your kind attention.

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