



71st World Health Assembly

11.7: Preparation for the third High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention Control of Non-communicable Diseases

Honourable Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the World Medical Association (WMA), which represents more than 9 million physicians from over 112 countries across the globe.

We welcome the multisectoral engagement offered by the Global Coordination Mechanism on the prevention and control of NCDs. We also acknowledge the efforts by WHO Secretariat for GCM/NCD and WHO DG for launching an independent NCDs commission to accelerate national progress on NCDs.

WMA recognize the importance given to sustainable financing of NCDs prevention and control by organising the WHO Global Dialogue on Partnerships on this topic in Copenhagen this April. The conference and especially the conference session - A vital investment: Scaling up health workforce for NCDs , organised by WMA and other organisations, requested for increased investment in scaling up of health workforce and strengthen healthcare system . Governments have to realize spending on health is an investment since for 1 dollar spent the returns on investment in health is estimated to be 9 dollars. NCDs can only be tackled by a strong, integrated, and ideally physician led primary health care system.

The progress in preventing and controlling NCDs to reach target 3.4 of the SDGs 2030 has been too slow in many countries. We ask Member States to accelerate their efforts toward NCDs through strong political actions and inclusion of progress toward NCDs in their national SDG reviews. Recalling the Montevideo Roadmap 2018-2030 on NCDs that asked for exploring innovative financing mechanisms, we call for increased international and domestic financing to tackle the NCD epidemic from both donors and national governments ahead of the UN High Level Meeting of the General Assembly.

The WMA is committed to tackle NCDs and ready to collaborate with WHO and Member States through National Medical Associations in achieving smart goals to control NCDs.

Thank you for your kind attention