



72nd World Health Assembly

Item 11.8 Follow-up to the high-level meetings of the United Nations General Assembly on health-related issues – Prevention and control of NCDs

Honorable 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 110 countries across the globe.

We would like to thank WHO for the report of the third High level meeting on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), whereas it encompasses all the aspects of scaling up the multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder responses, in the context of meeting target 3.4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG3).

The WMA agrees with the report's recognition that the world has yet to fulfil its promise of implementing at all levels, accelerating the progress and broadening the scope of its commitments. The voice of doctors is important in raising awareness on prevention and on the individual behaviours and risk factors. Additional physicians play an important role in addressing the social and economic circumstances that give rise to premature ill health, throughout the life course. The WMA notes that it can gather examples of good practice from its members and promote further work in this area. In this respect, strong and balanced health workforce has the pivotal role in the delivery of the SDG3.

We recognize the need for strengthening health systems, tackling with the lack of health professionals and enabling safe working conditions, as a key component of national health plans in the delivery of SDG3. Furthermore, we identify the need for strong supply chains of procurement that increase access to essential medicines needed for control of NCDs.

Therefore, we call upon the WHO and Member States to consider the need of many countries for catalytic funding to accelerate this work, although domestic resources should be the mainstay of action on NCDs, as in many societies, the burden of NCDs follows the social gradient.

Thank you
