



Joint statement

Agenda item (EM/RC70/INF.DOC.8)

: Accelerating regional implementation of the Political Declaration of the Third High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, 2018

Your Excellencies, Ministers of Health, Delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver this joint statement on behalf of the Eastern Mediterranean NCD Alliance, the International Alliance of Patients' Organizations (IAPO), and the IAPO Patients for Patient Safety Observatory.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and commend the work done by the WHO, and member states, in strengthening PHC services to ensure effective NCD care in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. Effective Primary Healthcare (PHC) plays a great role in equitable, quality, and safe NCD services from promotion to palliation. By strengthening PHC for NCD care, we can make significant strides in preventing, detecting, and managing NCDs, ultimately saving lives and reducing the NCD burden and mortality. Besides, as acknowledged at the High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage at the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly this year, delivering people-centered, inclusive primary health care (PHC) that prioritizes NCD prevention and care is a critical path toward UHC.

The rising incidence of NCD in the region continues to test the resilience of health systems and prove that we are not well prepared to address the challenge.

Many countries in the region continue to be challenged by issues such as an inadequately trained workforce, timely referral and follow-up of patients, and inappropriate infrastructure.

As such, we urge Member States to;

1. Prioritize investments in PHC infrastructure, ensuring that it is equipped with the necessary resources, facilities, and well-trained healthcare professionals to effectively manage NCDs.
2. Promote health literacy and awareness campaigns to empower individuals with the knowledge and tools to prevent NCDs and make informed decisions about their health.

3. Implement widespread NCD screening programs through PHC to identify conditions at their earliest, most treatable stages.
4. Follow the "WHO Framework for Meaningful Engagement of People Living with NCDs and Mental Health and Neurological Conditions" to deliver patient-centered care in PHC settings, focusing on the individual's needs, preferences, and involvement in their care decisions.
5. Foster collaboration and integration between various healthcare providers and specialties within PHC, ensuring a holistic approach to NCD care.
6. Address disparities in access to PHC services, particularly among vulnerable groups including refugees and displaced populations, to ensure that no one is left behind in the fight against NCDs.
7. Promote research and data collection efforts within PHC settings to monitor progress and improve NCD care practices and outcomes.

Thank You