



A joint Statement Submitted by the NCD Alliance and the Eastern Mediterranean NCD Alliance

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.

Dear Chairperson, excellencies, and colleagues

The Eastern Mediterranean NCD Alliance, supported by the Global NCD Alliance, would like to thank you for the opportunity to deliver this statement.

To uphold the fundamental right to health, it is of utmost importance that Universal Health Coverage (UHC) benefit packages encompass Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). Equally critical is ensuring that these packages are accessible to everyone, including the most vulnerable populations in our region, without any form of exclusion.

Enhancing UHC through a primary healthcare (PHC) approach holds the potential for significant advantages for people living with NCDs, given that NCDs constitute a substantial portion of the health conditions addressed within primary care. PHC serves as the cornerstone and is indispensable in achieving the sustainability of UHC mechanisms.

Considering that a significant proportion of people living with NCDs in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) have encountered overwhelming healthcare expenses and lack insurance coverage, it becomes imperative to shield individuals and communities from the financial burdens associated with NCDs. This is crucial if we are to make progress towards achieving intertwined SDG Goals 3.4 and 3.8 by 2030.

We urge Member States in the EMR to:

1. Accelerate UHC implementation by Including a comprehensive range of NCD prevention and care services across the continuum of care and life course in UHC health benefits packages.
2. Engage and empower communities, civil society organizations, and people living with NCDs, and ensure their participation in the design, planning, implementation, and evaluation of UHC programs and services
3. Align developmental and national health priorities to achieve UHC.
4. Invest in cost-effective interventions recommended by the WHO, including the "Best Buys," to reduce the prevalence of NCDs.
5. Increase funding for health to eliminate out-of-pocket expenses in health services.

Thank You