

## **WHF Statement on Agenda Item 11.1 – Draft Thirteenth General Programme of Work**

Honourable chair, distinguished delegates. The World Heart Federation welcomes the updated draft of the 13<sup>th</sup> General Programme of Work (or 'GPW').

We commend the indicators included in the Updated Impact Framework to measure global action on NCD and cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk factors such as prevalence of tobacco use and raised blood pressure; targets to reduce physical inactivity, population salt intake and harmful use of alcohol; elimination of trans-fats, and halting the rise in childhood overweight and obesity.

We support this emphasis on a population-based prevention approach, however we urge WHO and its Member States not to overlook access to safe and affordable NCD treatments.

Targets on the coverage of essential medicines and technologies and drug therapy and counselling, which are both included in the NCD Global Monitoring Framework, are absent from the GPW.<sup>1</sup> Inadequate access to essential medicines lies with important factors including underdeveloped national health infrastructures and financing systems, both areas that need to be addressed in our pursuit of UHC.

Many people living with NCDs such as CVD suffer from poor access to medicines, even though generic essential CVD drugs are included in the PEN Package and Best Buys; the return on investment for governments through implementing CVD programmes was reiterated only last month by the Lancet Taskforce on NCDs & Economics.<sup>2</sup>

In the report on Item 11.5, WHO note that up to 90% of the population in developing countries purchase medicines through out-of-pocket payments, and that this financial burden will rise due to the increasing prevalence of NCDs.<sup>3</sup> Therefore, financial risk protection for persons living with an NCD should be guaranteed under any health care coverage scheme.

The right and ability of people to access care are vital to progress towards UHC and for the attainment of the highest possible standard of health, as emphasized in goal 3 of the SDGs. As the thirteenth GPW is implemented, we urge governments to ensure that people living with NCDs can access the treatment they need.

Thank you for your attention.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.who.int/nmh/global\\_monitoring\\_framework/gmf1\\_large.jpg?ua=1](http://www.who.int/nmh/global_monitoring_framework/gmf1_large.jpg?ua=1)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(18\)30665-2/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(18)30665-2/fulltext)

<sup>3</sup> [http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/WHA71/A71\\_12-en.pdf](http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA71/A71_12-en.pdf)