

Global Health Council Statement on WHA Agenda Item 11.7 Preparation for the third High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, to be held in 2018

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Global Health Council and the NCD Roundtable, a coalition of over 75 leading health organizations and companies committed to addressing the global burden of non-communicable diseases, applaud the work done so far in the lead up to the Third High Level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of NCDs. We welcome this opportunity to focus attention on the growing burden of NCDs.

Each year, 38 million people worldwide die from NCDs, with three-quarters (or 28 million) of those deaths occurring among people living in low- and middle-income countries. These diseases, such as rheumatic heart disease, pediatric cancer, and type 1 diabetes, have a high impact on the poorest populations, children and young adults. NCD-related disabilities are even higher, constituting two-thirds of the global disability burden.

Additional investment in NCDs is critical to achieve WHO's goals of achieving Universal Health Coverage, especially for the poorest. There are effective, integrated strategies to successfully prevent and treat NCDs. Moreover addressing NCDs now is pivotal, as NCDs run the risk of rolling back progress on other diseases and investments. Currently, however, very little is being done to track the burden of NCDs in low-income and remote settings.

As this meeting coincides with the High Level Meeting on Tuberculosis, we feel this is an opportunity to focus on integrated health services. WHO, with its increased focus to provide quality care to all populations, needs to ensure that health systems can provide services across the spectrum, including the prevention, treatment, and control of NCDs. As well as the double burden of disease often posed by TB and NCDs.

As WHO prepares for the HLM, GHC and the NCD Roundtable recommend that:

- The HLM includes full meaningful participation from civil society, including people living with NCDs;
- The HLM document should include children and adolescents, who are not in the current draft;
- The outcome document includes new political commitments from governments and new financing commitments; and finally
- For the highest political level of engagement which is crucial for the success of the HLM.

Thank you.