

Agenda Items 13.2, 13.3, and 13.9

Global Health Council, supported by NCD Alliance emphasize that:

Policy responses to COVID-19 must address the ‘syndemic’ of health inequities, poverty, and non-communicable diseases. Many of the 3.4 million lives lost to COVID-19 to date include people living with NCDs, most frequently hypertension, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes. Governments must act now to prevent an even larger impact due to interrupted care, suspended screening programs, late diagnosis, broken supply chains, and resulting NCD complications.

We urge Member States to:

- Prioritize NCD care and prevention in national response and recovery plans and urgently prioritize the strengthening of health systems and continuation of NCD screening, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care to protect the most vulnerable communities, including children;
- Include NCDs in the discussions around a pandemic treaty, recognizing population health as a bedrock for resilience and preparedness;
- Support the proposed Resolution on Diabetes, and development of targets to reverse the trends in diabetes mortality and preventable complications of the last 2 decades and close the gaps in diagnosis, care, access to insulin and commodities essential for survival, and for type 2 diabetes prevention;
- Constructively engage in price transparency discussions to reduce costs and out-of-pocket payments for people living with NCDs and implement policies to increase the uptake of quality-assured generics and biosimilars, capacity building for local manufacturers, and to facilitate technology transfer;
- Support the Resolution on oral health, in particular emphasizing prevention, and inclusion in UHC and engage in the development of a global strategy, action plan, and 'best buys' for oral health;
- Adopt the proposed global eye care targets for effective coverage of both treatment of refractive error and cataract surgery to address inequalities in access; and
- Support the continuation of the NCD Global Coordination Mechanism (GCM), call for meaningful engagement of civil society and people living with NCDs to deliver on the objectives of the Global Action Plan on NCDs by 2030.