

Statement on Agenda Item 3: Draft Thirteenth General Programme of Work
Special Session of the Executive Board, 22-23 November 2017

Honourable chair, distinguished delegates. The World Heart Federation with the International Alliance of Patients' Organizations, World Hypertension League and World Stroke Organization welcomes the Draft 13th General Programme of Work (or GPW). We strongly support WHO's top strategic priority of supporting 'countries to strengthen health systems in order to progress towards UHC' and the priority afforded to NCDs. We would like to make comments on four key areas:

1. There now exists a range of agreed or proposed indicators and targets contained in the NCD Global Monitoring Framework¹, the SDG indicators², the four time-bound commitments³, and the Draft WHO Impact Framework.⁴ With regard to NCDs, some of these targets and indicators align and overlap, however the emphasis on certain indicators changes depending on which framework is used.

We would like greater detail on the rationale behind the selection and prioritisation of certain NCD targets in the Impact Framework, and clarify which framework will retain the most relevance in guiding the work of WHO and its Member States.

2. With regard to the Impact Framework, we are concerned by the omission of the targets on the provision of essential medicines and technologies, and drug therapy and counselling, which are both included in the NCD Global Monitoring Framework. We urge WHO to add a target of 80% coverage of NCD essential medicines and technologies to the Impact Framework.
3. We commend WHO for including NCDs as a priority area; however we suggest modifying the 'flagship initiative' selected under this priority area from 'NCDs, including mental health' to '*Access to NCD essential medicines and technologies*'. We believe that the current 'flagship initiative' is representative of WHO's normative technical support on NCDs, and that a more specific, focused 'flagship initiative' would be more impactful, more easily measured, and would complement WHO's goal to strengthen health systems to progress towards UHC.
4. We suggest that WHO outline in the GPW its plans for fast-tracking the implementation of FENSA at all levels of the organization, to promote the engagement of new stakeholder partnerships. This will be an essential step in tackling a range of social, economic, commercial and environmental determinants of health, especially for NCDs.

Thank you for your attention.

¹ http://www.who.int/nmh/global_monitoring_framework/en/

² https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework_A.RES.71.313%20Annex.pdf

³ <http://www.who.int/nmh/events/2015/Updated-WHO-Technical-Note-NCD-Progress-Monitor-September-2017.pdf?ua=1>

⁴ http://www.who.int/about/GPW13_impact-framework-draft.pdf