

RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE WHO GLOBAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF NCDs – 2013-2020

The Framework Convention Alliance (FCA) welcomes the opportunity to provide recommendations on the latest draft of the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs covering the period 2013 to 2020 (dated 15 March 2013).

FCA also welcomes revisions made as a result of the informal consultations that took place in Geneva at the beginning of March 2013. To strengthen the NCD Action Plan and the global response to the NCD epidemic, FCA recommends updating the plan by explicitly recognising the legally binding nature of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). FCA also calls for the addition of specific responsibilities for *International Partners* across all objectives of the plan.

A paragraph should be added between paragraphs 5 (Scope) and 6 (Relationship to the calls made upon WHO and its existing strategies, reform and plans) to describe the relationship between the NCD Action Plan and the WHO FCTC:

While the WHO Member States will be expected to implement the NCD Action Plan during 2013-2020, FCTC obligations are mandatory for an overwhelming majority of WHO Member States. In addition, tobacco control policies may be significantly advanced during 2013-2020 by decisions of the FCTC Conference of the Parties (COP). It is therefore important to clarify the relationship between the NCD Action Plan and the FCTC, using the following text:

Relationship between the NCD Global Action Plan and the WHO FCTC

Tobacco control measures included in this plan reflect provisions of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). The WHO FCTC is a legally binding treaty, and Parties to the WHO FCTC are required to implement all obligations under the treaty in full, and in accord with paragraph 35 of the NCD Action Plan, all Member States that are not FCTC Parties are encouraged to look to the FCTC as the foundational instrument in global tobacco control. The implementation of both the NCD Action Plan and the FCTC must be protected from the vested interests of the tobacco industry.

Clear responsibilities for international partners must be identified across all objectives of the NCD Action Plan:

The global NCD epidemic is too big for governments to solve alone. Whole-of-society support for implementation of the NCD Action Plan is critical. The current draft provides action points for international partners under objective 1, but then references these points as relevant for the remaining objectives: 2-6. This approach fails to recognise the breadth of expertise, knowledge and capacity that the UN, civil society and other stakeholders can offer to help turn the tide on the NCD epidemic. The NCD Action Plan must clearly identify actions for international partners across all six objectives of the Plan.

Framework Convention Alliance is made up of over 350 non-governmental organisations from more than 100 countries working on the development, ratification and implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).