



Key Paragraphs of the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases¹

This document provides a compilation of key paragraphs and next steps of the Political Declaration with respect tobacco control and its related issues.

A: Tobacco Control

8. Note with appreciation the World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, reaffirm all relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the World Health Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, and underline the importance for Member States to continue addressing common risk factors for non-communicable diseases through the implementation of the 2008-2013 Action Plan for the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases as well as the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health, and the Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol;

20. Recognize that the most prominent non-communicable diseases are linked to common risk factors, namely tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, an unhealthy diet, and lack of physical activity;

34. Recognize that prevention must be the cornerstone of the global response to non-communicable diseases;

Respond by a whole-of-government and a whole-of-society effort

35. Recognize also the critical importance of reducing the level of exposure of individuals and populations to the common modifiable risk factors for non-communicable diseases, namely, tobacco use, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, and the harmful use of alcohol, and their determinants, while at the same time strengthening the capacity of individuals and populations to make healthier choices and follow lifestyle patterns that foster good health;

38. Recognize the fundamental conflict of interest between the tobacco industry and public health;

Commitments

43. Advance the implementation of multisectoral, cost-effective, population-wide interventions in order to reduce the impact of the common non-communicable disease risk factors, namely tobacco use, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and harmful use of alcohol, through the implementation of relevant international agreements and strategies, and education, legislative, regulatory and fiscal measures, without prejudice to the right of sovereign Nations to determine and establish their taxation policies, other policies, where appropriate, by involving all relevant sectors, civil society and communities as appropriate and by taking the following actions:

¹ The full text of the Political Declaration is available at:
http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A%2F66%2FL.1&Lang=E

43 (c) Accelerate implementation by States parties of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, recognizing the full range of measures, including measures to reduce consumption and availability, and encourage countries that have not yet done so to consider acceding to the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, recognizing that substantially reducing tobacco consumption is an important contribution to reducing non-communicable diseases and can have considerable health benefits for individuals and countries, and that price and tax measures are an effective and important means of reducing tobacco consumption;

44. With a view to strengthening its contribution to non-communicable disease prevention and control, call upon the private sector, where appropriate, to: (c) Promote and create an enabling environment for healthy behaviours among workers, including by establishing tobacco-free workplaces [...]

B: Development²

1. Acknowledge that the global burden and threat of non-communicable diseases constitutes one of the major challenges for development in the twenty-first century, which undermines social and economic development throughout the world, and threatens the achievement of internationally agreed development goals;

22. Note with grave concern the vicious cycle whereby non-communicable diseases and their risk factors worsen poverty, while poverty contributes to rising rates of non-communicable diseases, posing a threat to public health and economic and social development;

23. Note with concern that the rapidly growing magnitude of non-communicable diseases affects people of all ages, gender, race and income levels, and further that poor populations and those living in vulnerable situations, in particular in developing countries bear a disproportionate burden and that non-communicable diseases can affect women and men differently;

31. Note with grave concern that non-communicable diseases and their risk factors lead to increased burdens on individuals, families and communities, including impoverishment from long-term treatment and care costs, and to a loss of productivity that threatens household income and leads to productivity loss for individuals and their families and to the economies of Member States, making non-communicable diseases a contributing factor to poverty and hunger, which may have a direct impact on the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

33. Recognize that the rising prevalence, morbidity and mortality of non-communicable diseases worldwide can be largely prevented and controlled through collective and multisectoral action by all Member States and other relevant stakeholders at local, national, regional, and global levels, and by raising the priority accorded to non-communicable diseases in development cooperation by enhancing such cooperation in this regard;

Planning process

45. Promote, establish or support and strengthen, by 2013, as appropriate, multisectoral national policies and plans for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, taking into account, as appropriate, the 2008-2013 WHO Action Plan for the Global Strategy

for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, and the objectives contained therein and take steps to implement such policies and plans;

45 (a) Strengthen and integrate, as appropriate, non-communicable disease policies and programmes into health-planning processes and the national development agenda of each Member State;

50. Acknowledge the contribution of international cooperation and assistance in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and, in this regard, encourage the continued inclusion of non-communicable diseases in development cooperation agendas and initiatives;

Cooperation

4. Recognize also the important role of the international community and international cooperation in assisting Member States, particularly developing countries, in complementing national efforts to generate an effective response to non-communicable diseases;

6. Recognize the urgent need for greater measures at global, regional and national levels to prevent and control non-communicable diseases in order to contribute to the full realization of the right of everyone to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

46. Strengthen international cooperation in support of national, regional, and global plans for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, inter alia, through the exchange of best practices in the areas of health promotion, legislation, regulation and health systems strengthening, training of health personnel, development of appropriate health-care infrastructure, diagnostics, and promoting the development, dissemination of appropriate, affordable and sustainable transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms and the production of affordable, safe, effective and quality medicines and vaccines, while recognizing the leading role of WHO as the primary specialized agency for health in that regard;

51. Call upon WHO, as the lead United Nations specialized agency for health, and all other relevant United Nations system agencies, funds and programmes, the international financial institutions, development banks, and other key international organizations to work together in a coordinated manner to support national efforts to prevent and control non-communicable diseases and mitigate their impacts;

Resources

40. Acknowledge that resources devoted to combating the challenges posed by non-communicable diseases at the national, regional and international levels are not commensurate with the magnitude of the problem;

41. Recognize the importance of strengthening local, provincial, national and regional capacities to address and effectively combat non-communicable diseases, particularly in developing countries, and that this may entail increased and sustained human, financial and technical resources;

45(c) According to national priorities, and taking into account domestic circumstances, increase and prioritize budgetary allocations for addressing non-communicable disease risk factors and for surveillance, prevention, early detection, and treatment of non-communicable diseases, and the related care and support including palliative care;

49. Promote all possible means to identify and mobilize adequate, predictable and sustained financial resources and the necessary human and technical resources, and to consider support for voluntary, cost-effective, innovative approaches for a longterm financing of non-communicable disease prevention and control, taking into account the Millennium Development Goals;

52. Urge relevant international organizations to continue to provide technical assistance and capacity-building to developing countries, especially to the least developed countries, in the areas of non-communicable disease prevention and control and promotion of access to medicines for all, including through the full use of trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights flexibilities and provisions;

C: Next Steps

Commitments

45. Promote, establish or support and strengthen, by 2013, as appropriate, multisectoral national policies and plans for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, taking into account, as appropriate, the 2008-2013 WHO Action Plan for the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, and the objectives contained therein and take steps to implement such policies and plans;
[see detail in sub-para's 45. a to s]

61. Call upon WHO, with the full participation of Member States, informed by their national situations, through its existing structures, and in collaboration with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and other relevant regional and international organizations, as appropriate, building on continuing efforts to develop before the end of 2012, a comprehensive global monitoring framework, including a set of indicators, capable of application across regional and country settings, including through multisectoral approaches, to monitor trends and to assess progress made in the implementation of national strategies and plans on non-communicable diseases;

62. Call upon WHO, in collaboration with Member States through the governing bodies of WHO, and in collaboration with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and other relevant regional and international organizations, as appropriate, building on the work already under way, to prepare recommendations for a set of voluntary global targets for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, before the end of 2012;

64. Request the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Director-General of WHO, and in consultations with Member States, United Nations funds and programmes and other relevant international organizations, to submit by the end of 2012 to the General Assembly, at its sixty-seventh session, for consideration by Member States, options for strengthening and facilitating multisectoral action for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases through effective partnership;

65. Request the Secretary-General, in collaboration with Member States, WHO, and relevant funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to present to the General Assembly at the sixty-eighth session a report on the progress achieved in realizing the commitments made in this Political Declaration, including on the progress of multisectoral action, and the impact on the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in preparation for a

comprehensive review and assessment in 2014 of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.