

**Statement  
of the Alliance for Health Promotion  
at the 69<sup>th</sup> WHA, May 2016**

Agenda item: 12.4 Prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases: responses to specific assignments in preparation for the third High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases in 2018

Honourable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

I am speaking on behalf of the Alliance for Health Promotion, which brings together over thirty national and international organisations worldwide, for the improvement and development of people's health.

We would like to underline the importance of Health Promotion, when it comes to overcoming the burden of non-communicable diseases. It is vital to understand that NCDs must be tackled through firm measures which empower people to take responsibility for their own health.

Non-communicable diseases affect everyone, at all ages, but have the most adverse impact on the marginalized or underprivileged populations. Addressing the social determinants of health is not an option, it is a necessity to reduce health inequity. We therefore call upon governments to put in place appropriate policies to tackle these issues and reduce the burden of spending enormous resources on preventable diseases as well as the ill-health and mortality caused by NCDs.

To achieve the best outcomes, we should reorient health systems and actively embrace health promotion. This would require changes in financing, policy and the workforce. In order to better meet the health needs of the population, a multisectorial and interdisciplinary approach is needed. A competent and sufficient workforce would bring better outcomes on health literacy to this category of citizens, which will lead to increased control by the individuals and the communities over their own health and well-being.

We welcome the preparations for the third High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases and truly trust that the commitments of Member States towards the prevention, control and financing for the agenda will be implemented nationally, setting a good foundation for further programmes on health to thrive.

Thank you for your attention.

Ref: Documents A69/10 and EB138/2016/REC/1, resolution EB138.R4