

Statement to the 69th World Health Assembly

Agenda item 12.4 Prevention and control of NCDs: responses to specific assignments in preparation for the third High-level Meeting of the UNGA on the Prevention and Control of NCDs in 2018

Thank you, Chair, for giving me the opportunity to address the distinguished members of the WHA on behalf of Medicus Mundi International and the People's Health Movement.

We note with concern that global policy and decision making around NCDs has become very complicated with multiple overlapping mandates and forums. The fundamental issues involved in addressing the problem are difficult to identify.

In Annex A, indicators measuring progress in national capacity need further review. We urge WHO to move from the system of self-review by member states to an independent reporting system which employs peer review.

In reporting Secretariat action there is no reference to the underfunding of WHO's NCDs work, indicating limited interest and commitment shown in this area by prominent donors of WHO. We are concerned about the many areas where data is missing in the section reporting progress in the 9 voluntary targets. We call on the WHO to urgently review the approach to reporting of progress.

There is no reference to trade, tax, or the regulation of TNCs (other than tobacco). We urge the Secretariat to examine trade and health policy coherence and the development of trade and health policy capacity in the revision of appendix 3. We urge the inclusion of guidelines for health impact assessment of trade agreement provisions.

Currently, there is no procedure to ensure that recommendations of the Working Groups are reported to the governing bodies of the WHO. PHM calls upon MS to request such a formal process.

PHM notes the lack of any commitments in the GCM work plan to address the influence of big pharma, big food and big beverage on WHO and UN policy making around NCDs. We urge GCM to be tasked with monitoring potential conflicts of interest in the policy processes associated with the GAP and advise the DG.

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