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Resolution

**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN**

**EM/RC66/R.6
October 2019**

**Sixty-sixth Session
Agenda item 3(e)**

Accelerating regional implementation of the Political Declaration of the Third High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases, 2018

The Regional Committee,

Having reviewed the technical paper presenting an update of the regional framework for action to implement the United Nations Political Declaration on NCDs, including indicators to assess country progress by 2030;¹

Recalling United Nations resolution 73/2 on the 2018 political declaration on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) entitled “Time to deliver: accelerating our response to address noncommunicable diseases for the health and well-being of present and future generations”;

Recalling also the outcome documents of the two previous General Assembly high-level meetings on the prevention and control of NCDs and Regional Committee resolution EM/RC62/R.2 on accelerating the implementation of the regional framework for action;

Welcoming the fact that United Nations resolution 70/1 on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes specific targets for 2030, including: reducing by one third premature mortality from noncommunicable diseases through prevention and treatment; strengthening the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control; ending all forms of malnutrition; and reducing air pollution ;

Considering that the fourth high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of NCDs will take place in 2025;

Recognizing that there is a need for an updated framework to operationalize the recommendations made in the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of NCDs;

- 1. ENDORSES** the updated regional framework for action to implement the United Nations Political Declaration on NCDs, including indicators to assess country progress by 2030 (which is annexed to this resolution);
- 2. URGES** Member States to implement the strategic interventions identified in the regional framework with a particular emphasis placed on:

¹ EM/RC66/7.

- 2.1 Scaling up national NCD prevention and control responses through high-level political commitment and multisectoral coordination beyond the health sector;
 - 2.2 Setting national NCD targets that draw on the nine voluntary global targets for NCDs, and developing or strengthening national multisectoral policies and action plans;
 - 2.3 Conducting national investment cases for the prevention and control of NCDs, where needed;
 - 2.4 Accelerating implementation of the NCD best buys, and reducing air pollution;
 - 2.5 Strengthening human resources and institutional capacity for the surveillance, monitoring and evaluation of NCDs and their risk factors, including national population-based cancer registries;
 - 2.6 Integrating NCD services into primary health care and national benefit packages, including in emergency settings;
- 3. REQUESTS the Regional Director to:**
- 3.1 Assist Member States to accelerate implementation of their national NCD action plans and monitor progress towards their targets;
 - 3.2 Facilitate the development of regional networks for the exchange of information, good practices and lessons learned among Member States;
 - 3.3 Support Member States in their preparations for the fourth high-level meeting of the General Assembly in 2025;
 - 3.4 Report on the progress made by Member States in the prevention and control of NCDs to the 68th and 70th sessions of the Regional Committee.

Annex 1. Framework for action to implement the United Nations Political Declaration on NCDs, including indicators to assess country progress by 2030

Commitments	Strategic interventions	Progress indicators
In the area of governance	<p>Each country is expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate the prevention and control of NCDs into national policies and development plans • Establish a multisectoral strategy/plan and a set of national targets and indicators for 2025 based on the national situation and WHO guidance • Increase budgetary allocations for NCD prevention and control including through innovative financing mechanisms such as taxation of tobacco, alcohol and other unhealthy products • Develop a national investment case on the prevention and control of NCDs • Periodically assess national capacity for the prevention and control of NCDs using WHO tools 	<p>Country has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An operational multisectoral national strategy/action plan that integrates the major NCDs and their shared risk factors • Set time-bound national targets and indicators based on WHO guidance • A high-level national multisectoral commission, agency or mechanism to oversee the engagement, policy coherence and accountability of sectors beyond health
In the area of prevention and reduction of risk factors	<p>Each country is expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerate implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) and ratify the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products • Ensure healthy nutrition in early life and childhood, including promoting breastfeeding and regulating the marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages to children • Reduce average population salt intake in line with WHO recommendations • Virtually eliminate transfat intake and reduce intake of saturated fatty acids • Promote physical activity through a life-course approach • Implement the best buys to reduce the harmful use of alcohol • Implement WHO guidelines and recommended interventions to reduce exposure to air pollution² (e.g. developing healthy transport options, regulating industrial emission controls, preventing agricultural and solid waste burning, and providing access to clean fuels and technologies for all household usages) 	<p>Country is implementing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four demand-reduction measures of the WHO FCTC at the highest level of achievement • Four measures to reduce unhealthy diet • At least one recent national public awareness programme on diet and/or physical activity • As appropriate according to national circumstances, three measures to reduce the harmful use of alcohol, in line with the WHO global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol • A system to monitor and communicate ambient and household air pollution (especially PM 2.5) to policy-makers, the public and vulnerable groups • Estimations of the health impacts of air pollution that are communicated to related sectors
In the area of surveillance, monitoring and evaluation	<p>Each country is expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement/strengthen the WHO global monitoring framework, which monitors mortality and morbidity, risk factors and determinants, and health system capacity and response • Integrate the three components of the surveillance framework into the national health information system • Strengthen human resources and institutional capacity for surveillance, monitoring and evaluation 	<p>Country has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A functioning system for generating reliable cause-specific mortality data on a routine basis • A STEPS survey or a comprehensive health examination survey every five years • An operational population-based cancer registry
In the area of health care	<p>Each country is expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the best buys in health care for NCDs • Improve access to early detection and management of major NCDs and related risk factors by including them in the essential primary health care package in stable and emergency settings • Improve access to safe, affordable and quality essential medicines and technologies for major NCDs • Improve access to essential cancer care services across the continuum of care, in alignment with the regional framework for action on cancer prevention and control 	<p>Country has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence-based national guidelines/protocols/standards for management of major NCDs through a primary care approach, recognized/approved by the government or competent authority • Provision of drug therapy, including glycaemic control, and counselling for eligible persons at high risk to prevent heart attacks and strokes, with an emphasis on the primary care level • Government approved evidence-based guidelines/protocols for early detection and management of major NCDs through a primary care approach

²See the WHO global strategy on health, environment and climate change: the transformation needed to improve lives and well-being sustainably through healthy environments, 2019.