

EMR NCDA Response to HLC Report Addressing the Regional Priorities

EMR NCDA welcomes the opportunity to review and provide feedbacks on the First report of the WHO independent High-Level commission on non-communicable diseases.

We also welcome the direct language and frank assessment of the all too often poor progress made since the UN High Level Meeting on NCDs in 2011. As the draft report states, ‘there is no excuse for inaction as we have evidence-based solutions’

Key Recommendations

EMR NCDA acknowledge a number of references to obesity as one of the leading cause of NCD

that obesity prevention and treatment be included in the report as both a cause of NCD’s and a key area for action . For this reason, we urge the Commission to strengthen the focus on prevention and control of cardiovascular disease. By doing so, the Commission will not only help prevent and improve management of people with cardiovascular disease, but will also address many other chronic conditions with shared risk factors.

obesity prevention and treatment requires urgent attention at the forthcoming High-level Meeting and within national responses to address NCD’s.

- Commit to reducing childhood obesity: The Third High-Level Meeting on NCDs should be seen as an opportunity for political leaders to renew their commitment to reducing childhood obesity. This will require the implementation of national obesity strategies which include a comprehensive package of policies, building on the work of the WHO Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity (ECHO). Reducing childhood obesity is the best chance to prevent adult obesity and diabetes and end the obesity pandemic. A focus on childhood obesity aligns with the Draft 13th WHO Programme of Work, which includes a target to halt and reverse child and adolescent obesity
- Prioritise policies that tackle the social and commercial determinants of health: Steps to tackle the social and commercial determinants of health will be essential for halting the rise in obesity. Political leaders must be encouraged to implement the full set of “Best Buy” policies where possible, with a particular focus on policies which address the commercial determinants of health, including a sugar tax. Tackling these drivers will be essential for halting the rise in obesity and reducing NCDs