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Agenda item 6.3 – Prevention and control of non-communicable 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 chairperson, distinguished delegates,

This statement is delivered by the Union for International Cancer Control with World Cancer Research Fund International and the NCD Alliance, with support from World Obesity Federation.

We welcome and support the proposed process and timeline for updating Appendix 3 of the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (2013-2020), to ensure new scientific and other evidence of impact shapes the basis for reaching the goal of reducing premature mortality from NCDs by 25% by 2025.

Appendix 3 is a vital implementation component of the Global Action Plan, and should be strengthened to reflect a comprehensive policy approach to the NCD response of prevention, treatment and care that can be tailored to national environments and populations.

We strongly support the inclusion of a more detailed discussion of implementation constraints, and recommend that this information is included as part of Appendix 3 (and not in an Addendum) as context is vital for full consideration of affordability. We also support listing interventions alongside their cost-effectiveness ratio in the updated Appendix 3, and oppose setting a threshold for inclusion.

In identifying interventions for analysis, particularly in the case of risk factors, we urge the WHO to also consider a policy option's impact on intermediary outcomes (along the pathway of effects to a health outcome) and not to exclude policies without a quantifiable effect size on future health outcomes, or interventions where affordability is well documented despite an absence of cost-effectiveness data.

Finally, we urge the WHO to ensure that the process of updating Appendix 3 includes official and transparent multi-stakeholder consultations, including civil society, in the period between May-October/November 2016.