

## **Strengthening noncommunicable disease policies to promote active ageing**

The Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the reports on the outcomes of the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases and the First Global Ministerial Conference on Healthy Lifestyles and Noncommunicable Disease Control<sup>1</sup> and the report on the implementation of the global strategy for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases and the action plan;<sup>2</sup>

Recalling the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, the Moscow Declaration adopted at the First Global Ministerial Conference on Healthy Lifestyles and Noncommunicable Disease Control (Moscow, 28 and 29 April 2011), and the resolution WHA64.11 on preparations for the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, following on the Moscow Conference;

Recalling the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Follow-up Meeting (Tokyo, 2 and 3 June 2011), with the participation of more than 110 countries, and some 20 United Nations or regional organizations and civil society organizations, at which it was agreed that noncommunicable diseases are emerging global challenges for the post-2015 era, and which also threaten the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goals;

Noting that an estimated 36 million of the 57 million deaths in the world in 2008 were due to noncommunicable diseases, such as cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes, which are largely caused by four common risk factors, namely tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy diet, and lack of physical activity, and that nearly 80% of those deaths occurred in developing countries;

Noting that as noncommunicable diseases become more prevalent among older persons, there is an urgent need to prevent noncommunicable disease-related disabilities and to plan for long-term care;

Noting with profound concern that ageing is among the major contributory factors to the rising incidence and prevalence of noncommunicable diseases, which are leading causes of preventable morbidity and disability;

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<sup>1</sup> Documents A65/6 and A65/6 Add.1.

<sup>2</sup> Document A65/8.

Noting further that the ageing population would require access to affordable medicines in order to enhance healthy ageing;

Noting also the demographic change, with the world's population aged 60 years or more increasing at more than three times the overall population growth rate and being expected to rise to about 1200 million in 2025; that the ageing of populations has public health and economic implications, including rising rates of noncommunicable diseases; and also the importance of lifelong health-promotion and disease-prevention activities that can prevent or delay, for example, the onset and severity of noncommunicable diseases and promote healthy ageing;

Recalling resolutions WHA52.7 and WHA58.16 on active ageing that, inter alia, urged Member States to take measures that ensure the highest attainable standard of health and well-being for the rapidly growing numbers of older persons in both developed and developing countries;

Recalling further United Nations General Assembly resolution 57/167, which endorsed the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, as well as other relevant resolutions on ageing;

Noting that the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases recognizes that mental and neurological disorders, including Alzheimer's disease, are an important cause of morbidity and contribute to the global burden of noncommunicable diseases, and therefore it is necessary to provide equitable access to effective health programmes and interventions, including for the whole population, from an early age;

Recognizing the importance of gender-based approaches, solidarity and mutual support for social development, of the realization of the human rights of older persons, of promoting quality of life, health equity and the prevention of age discrimination, and of promoting social integration of aged citizens;

Acknowledging the Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants of Health, which expressed the determination to achieve social and health equity through actions on the social determinants of health and well-being with a comprehensive intersectoral approach;

Noting the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and related WHO strategies and action plans, underscoring the importance of addressing common risk factors for noncommunicable diseases;

Welcoming WHO's focus on prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases through public health action, a primary health care approach and comprehensive health system strengthening,

1. URGES Member States:<sup>1</sup>

- (1) to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate policies, programmes and multisectoral action on noncommunicable disease prevention and health promotion in order to strengthen healthy ageing policies and programmes and promote the highest standard of health and well-being for older persons;

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<sup>1</sup> And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

- (2) to strengthen intersectoral policy frameworks and institutional mechanisms, as appropriate, for integrated management of prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases, including health promotion, health-care and social-welfare services, in order to address the needs of older persons;
- (3) to ensure, where appropriate, that national health strategies on noncommunicable diseases contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- (4) to promote, as appropriate, conditions that enable individuals, carers, families and communities to encourage healthy ageing, including care for, provision of support to and protection of older persons, taking into account physical and psychological aspects of ageing, and to focus on intergenerational approaches;
- (5) to encourage the active participation of older people in society and in their local community;
- (6) to strengthen cooperation and partnership among Member States<sup>1</sup> at all levels of government, among stakeholders, academia, research foundations, the private sector and civil society, in order to implement plans and programmes effectively;
- (7) to highlight the importance of a primary health care approach in national health-care planning, in close collaboration with social services, and of enabling integration of health promotion and prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases into ageing policies;
- (8) to encourage making available measures and resources to provide health promotion, health care and social protection for healthy and active ageing, paying special attention to access to affordable medicines and the importance of training, education and capacity-building of the health workforce in collaboration with WHO and partners;
- (9) to further strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems for generating and analysing data on noncommunicable diseases, disaggregated by age, sex and socioeconomic status, with the aim of developing equitable evidence-based policies and planning for older persons;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

- (1) to provide support to Member States in promoting and facilitating further implementation of commitments made at relevant United Nations conferences and summits on noncommunicable diseases and ageing;
- (2) to provide support to Member States in placing emphasis on health promotion and disease prevention throughout the life-course starting at the earliest stage possible, including multisectoral approaches to healthy ageing, integrated care for older persons and support for providers of formal and informal welfare services;
- (3) to support Member States in developing policies and programmes for access to affordable medicines for the ageing;

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<sup>1</sup> And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

- (4) to provide further support to Member States in raising awareness of healthy and active ageing and of the positive aspects of ageing by means that include ageing-specific policies and the mainstreaming of ageing in their national strategies;
- (5) to support the advancement of country-level systems for monitoring noncommunicable diseases, as appropriate, and continue to develop a comprehensive global monitoring system for prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases to track trends and monitor progress in implementation of the Political Declaration;
- (6) to raise the priority given to prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases on the agendas of relevant forums and meetings of national and international leaders in advance of a post-2015 global development agenda;
- (7) to consider making the focus of *The world health report 2014* the global status of ageing, recognizing the importance of strengthening information systems through the inclusion of older adults in the collection, analysis and dissemination of data and information on health status and risk factors;
- (8) to report to the Sixty-sixth World Health Assembly, through the Executive Board, on progress made in implementing this resolution.

Ninth plenary meeting, 25 May 2012  
A65/VR/9

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