

Kampala, April 19, 2016

To the Director,  
World Health Organization - Regional Office for Africa,  
Cité du Djoué, P.O.Box 06,  
Brazzaville,  
Republic of Congo.

Dear Dr. Matshidiso Moeti

**RE: Expression of support for a WHO Africa Regional Framework for NCDs**

On behalf of the East Africa Non-Communicable Diseases Alliance (EANCDA) and all the undersigned partners, we would like to thank you for your leadership of the WHO African Regional Office and specifically your efforts in addressing Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

According to WHO itself, deaths from NCDs are likely to increase globally by 17% over the next 10 years, and the African region will experience a 27% increase - 28 million additional deaths - from these conditions which are projected to exceed deaths due to communicable, maternal, perinatal and nutritional diseases combined by 2030.

It is our emphatic view that if we do not take bold steps, we are sleep walking into a healthcare disaster. Africa is ill-prepared for this looming epidemiologic transition. Our countries are financially constrained, healthcare systems are built to handle communicable diseases, and in most countries NCD policies and strategic plans are not operational or inexistent and lack high-level multisectoral coordination for effective response across government sectors.

We believe that NCD control and prevention must become a health and development priority in the African region. Urgent national action and regional political leadership from organizations like WHO AFRO, East African Community (EAC) and African Union (AU) is needed to prevent millions of premature deaths from NCDs.

Over the last few years, WHO regional offices across the world have played an instrumental role in setting regional NCD strategies that reflect the unique context of each region. We believe such a regional strategy is needed for the African region and has been patiently awaited. As such, we are very pleased to note that under your leadership there is a WHO Africa Regional Framework for NCDs currently being developed and we would like to congratulate WHO AFRO for taking this bold step. As civil society, we believe that the adoption of this framework in 2016 will provide key impetus and strategic direction to all governments to speed up efforts in planning for and addressing NCDs throughout the African region.

It is our belief that addressing NCDs needs wide and multi-sector collaboration. We would like to sincerely offer our meaningful support as civil society as you proceed with the development and implementation of this framework.

We look forward to working with your Office in strengthening NCD control and prevention in Africa.

Yours sincerely,



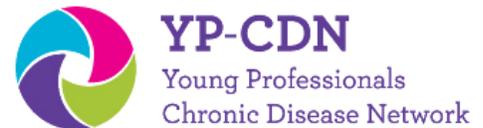
Prof. Yonga, Gerald

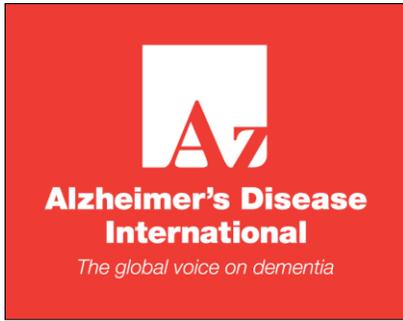
**Chair, East Africa NCD Alliance &**

**Foundation Head, NCD Research to Policy Unit, Aga Khan University, East Africa**

**This letter is co-signed by the following partners**

1. Uganda NCD Alliance (UNCDA)
2. Tanzania NCD Alliance (TANCDAA)
3. Zanzibar NCD Alliance (Z-NCDA)
4. Kenya NCD Alliance
5. The Tobacco - Free Association of Zambia (TOFAZA)
6. Zambia Heart and Stroke foundation (ZAHESFO)
7. South African NCD Alliance
8. Uganda Initiative for Integrated Management of NCDs (UINCD)
9. Framework Convention Alliance
10. Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)
11. World Heart Federation
12. NCD Alliance (Global)
13. International Diabetes Federation
14. Young Professionals – Chronic Disease Network
15. Aarhus University
16. Vital Strategies
17. World Cancer Research Fund International
18. NCD Child
19. Alzheimer 's Disease International
20. Management Sciences for Health
21. American Cancer Society
22. Norwegian Cancer Society
23. Action on Smoking and Health
24. American Heart Association
25. American College of Cardiology
26. International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease





NORWEGIAN  
CANCER SOCIETY



International Union Against  
Tuberculosis and Lung Disease  
*Health solutions for the poor*