



**Statement by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) to the 68th World Health Assembly
Update on the Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity, agenda item 13.3, Document A68/10**

Chair, Honorable Ministers, Director General, ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver this statement on behalf of the Union for International Cancer Control and supported by World Cancer Research Fund International.

We commend the Director-General for establishing a high-level Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity to address this significant issue, and for undertaking an extensive consultative approach.

We support the overarching goals of the Commission, the emphasis on government's central role in addressing childhood obesity through policy action, and the recognition that singular approaches will not be effective.

We agree that without intervention, obese infants and young children are likely to continue to be obese during childhood, adolescence and adulthood, resulting in a wide range of health complications throughout the lifecycle. Childhood obesity increases the likelihood of adult obesity, which increases the risk of non-communicable diseases including cancer. There is strong evidence that being overweight or obese in adulthood increases the risk of at least 10 cancers.

Excessive sugar consumption is one factor that promotes overweight and obesity. Many populations around the world consume sugars at levels that exceed the World Health Organization's Guideline: Sugars intake for adults and children. To help countries meet the WHO Guideline, World Cancer Research Fund International has developed a policy brief called *Curbing global sugar consumption: Effective food policy actions to help promote healthy diets & tackle obesity*.

This brief provides examples of effective, feasible policy actions that are available to Member States across four key areas that influence sugar consumption: availability, affordability, acceptability and awareness. Member States can learn from the policy actions highlighted in the brief and adapt them to their national contexts.

We call on Member States to implement policies based on the best available evidence, and act now in a comprehensive manner to tackle childhood obesity.

Thank you.