



Statement to the 70th Session of the World Health Assembly on the Preparation for the third High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of NCDs, Agenda Item 15.1 (A70/27)

Honourable chairperson, distinguished delegates,

World Cancer Research Fund International with World Obesity Federation, supported by the NCD Alliance, welcomes the updated and expanded Appendix 3 to the Global Action Plan for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases 2013-2020 and strongly encourages Member States to endorse the updated Appendix 3.

In particular, under Objective 3 (Unhealthy Diets) we commend the expansion of the scope and increased specificity of interventions listed, and urge Member States to take decisive action. There is strong evidence to support a need for regulatory interventions to create healthy food environments and food systems. The WHO guidance provides Member States with the justification for accelerated action to protect and promote healthy diets and prevent industry interference in the policymaking process.

We applaud the WHO for undertaking analysis on cost-effectiveness of taxation on sugar sweetened beverages and the inclusion of fiscal measures in the document. We urge that forthcoming evaluations of fiscal measures conducted at country-level be collected and considered to further build up evidence for future cost-effectiveness analysis.

We welcome the specific recognition that interventions without WHO CHOICE analysis can still be cost-effective, affordable and feasible, and the importance of non-financial considerations such as feasibility, health equity and overall effectiveness.

We encourage future reviews of Appendix 3 to ensure close alignment with the recommendations of the Implementation Plan of the Commission Ending Childhood Obesity.

We therefore call on Member States to consider the recommendations in both documents when implementing comprehensive plans and policies to protect and improve diets, and urge Member States to implement the recommended interventions in both documents without delay.