

Written statement from IDF Europe to provisional agenda item 12: Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases in the WHO European Region 2016–2025 (EUR/RC66/R11)

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The International Diabetes Federation Europe (IDF Europe), representing the voice of people living with diabetes (PWD) and healthcare professionals across Europe, welcomes the *Implementation of the Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases in the WHO European Region 2016–2025: final progress report*.

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) account for approximately 80% of the disease burden in the European Region. With over 65 million people currently living with diabetes, and numbers projected to rise, we are deeply concerned about the stalled progress reported on the prevention and control of NCDs. Diabetes remains a major contributor to premature mortality, morbidity and reduced quality of life. One in three people with diabetes remain undiagnosed, and only half meet their glucose targets reflecting serious gaps in early diagnosis and access to care.

Diabetes is closely interconnected with many other NCDs, including cardiovascular disease, obesity and chronic kidney disease. For example, one in three people living with diabetes develop cardiovascular disease, and one in three develop kidney disease.¹ These conditions are not only linked by shared risk factors but are biologically and clinically interdependent, creating a cycle in which poor management of one condition can cause and/or worsen another. Diabetes affects nearly every major organ system, and complications, including retinopathy, neuropathy, kidney disease and cognitive conditions, highlight the broader health impacts of inadequate glucose management. The interconnectedness of these conditions underscores the urgent need to move beyond siloed approaches and adopt coordinated, integrated strategies that address shared drivers, risk factors and solutions.

Member States (MS) have already made important commitments on diabetes and NCDs through for example, the Sustainable Development Goals and various World Health Assembly Resolution targets on NCDs, including the coverage targets for diabetes. Accelerating action on the implementation of evidence-based strategies is critical to ensure that these targets are met, the disease burden is reduced, and the lives of people living with or at risk of diabetes and NCDs are improved.

IDF Europe welcomes the proposal to develop an umbrella strategy on NCDs and urges WHO Europe and Member States to ensure it delivers meaningful change. Whether

¹ [Wheel of complications - IDF Europe Site](#)

through this umbrella strategy or other coordinated measures, the following actions are essential to accelerate progress on diabetes and other NCDs:

- Reduce inequalities by targeting the socio-economic determinants of health and building health-enabling environments through a health-in-all-policies and whole-of-government approach to health.
- Strengthen prevention, early detection and management, including systematic approaches to early diagnosis of diabetes and other NCDs and guaranteeing universal, affordable and uninterrupted access to medicines, technologies and tools.
- Promote research and innovation, through robust data collection, digitalisation of health systems, adoption of scalable innovations and research funding to address unmet needs including in the prevention, management and cure of diabetes.
- Build resilient, person-centred care systems, particularly by strengthening primary care and developing and scaling integrated, innovative care models.
- Engage and empower people living with diabetes and other NCDs, ensuring meaningful involvement in the development of NCD strategies as well as in research, care delivery, education, digital and health literacy initiatives and policy development.

IDF Europe stands ready to collaborate with WHO Europe, Member States and all stakeholders to translate commitments into action and accelerate the implementation of integrated NCD strategies and ensure that all PWD and other NCDs can access the care they need to live healthy, full lives.