

71st Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa

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Agenda item: 18.4, Integrating essential NCD services in primary health care.

Statement:

AFR/RC71 would like to address the information document 18.4.

We appreciate the concern and effort put up by WHO towards the integration of NCD services in primary health care. NCDs are a great concern within the member states with a big percentage of deaths associated with them.

It is more effective when tackled through prevention rather than just solving the consequential outcome. Awareness especially among the youth who are a big population as a target for sensitization and health education. Prevention is always better and as such an NCDs-free generation can be achieved by targeting the Youth through raising awareness to prevent adoption of key risky behaviours that set a stage to developing NCDs later in life. Consequently with behavioral modification transcends through generation to generation

Essential NCD interventions delivered through the PHC approach produce excellent economic investments. We encourage WHO to implement clinical guidelines/protocols about NCD management for better service delivery. In achieving better health outcomes, a clear referral procedure at all stages is paramount.

We urge member states to enforce capacity building for restoring and scaling up life-saving screening, early diagnosis and treatment of NCDs and focusing on quality primary care.

We urge WHO and member states to improve coordination and partnerships among international and national NGOs, to share evidence and identify research properties

In addition, we encourage member states about the importance of adequate resource mobilization i.e. include NCD care as part of health response budgets, proposals and appeals. We urge inclusion of policies for legal, administrative and logistical backing for task-shifting and task-sharing in integration of NCDs in basic packages of health services.