

NCD Alliance - IFMSA joint statement to OWG 12
20 June 2014

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. I speak today on behalf of the NCD Alliance and the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations.

We will speak today only about proposed target 3.4 on non-communicable diseases.

We recommend target 3.4 to be amended and refined so it is truly a standalone target on NCDs. Specifically, we propose a target that will read "By 2030, reduce by at least 40% premature deaths from non-communicable diseases (NCDs), reduce by 50% deaths from road traffic injuries, and address mental and neurological disorders."

This target is based on the agreed 25 by 2025 mortality target, and takes into account recent data published in The Lancet showing a business-as-usual approach to reducing exposure to just a few NCD risk factors will allow us to achieve a 30% target. Therefore, a more ambitious target, and one that balances prevention, treatment and care, is needed.

We support the re-introduction of a separate target on narcotic drug and substance abuse, which reads "By 2030, reduce narcotic drug and substance abuse, and ensure the adequate availability of controlled substances for medical use."

We strongly encourage the increased attention to and measurement of NCD-related morbidity and disability, as the global NCD burden extends far beyond only the number of deaths. In order to achieve the goal of attaining healthy lives at all ages, we would like to emphasize the importance of strengthening data collection relevant to health targets and indicators and their disaggregation by income level, gender, place of residence and age.

Improved health and development outcomes require ensuring that all people have access to a package of essential health services across the continuum of care, regardless of their ability to pay. For this reason, universal health coverage should be positioned as the means to achieve all targets.

Finally, we support the inclusion of the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health in the chapeau.

Together, we can ensure a healthy future for all people, everywhere. Thank you.