



Statement to the World Health Assembly

**Non-Communicable Diseases: a Global Health Challenge**

International Pediatric Association

April 2014

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) cause millions of preventable deaths. Childhood and adolescence are critical times for adoption of lifestyles and behaviors responsible for adult NCDs.

Addressing underlying biological, behavioral and social early life factors in the prevention and treatment of NCDs requires attention from governments, civil society organizations, and the private sector.

Adolescents and youth, including those living with disability, deserve to enjoy the highest attainable standards of health and deserve equitable access to quality, effective and affordable services for prevention, early and accurate diagnosis, treatment, supportive care, rehabilitation, and palliative care.

Member States are urged to adopt the following recommendations:

1. Implement proven, effective life-course interventions within national child and adolescent health and NCD plans, addressing NCD risk factors across the life-course, including but not limited to under and over nutrition; secondhand smoke exposure, tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use; physical inactivity; Human Papilloma Virus and Hepatitis B infection; injury prevention; and prevention of toxic childhood experiences.
2. Ensure access to quality affordable medicines, including cancer, asthma and diabetes treatments and pain relief for palliative care.
3. Ensure meaningful engagement of children, families and youth as stakeholders in NCD systems planning.
4. Scale up multi-sectoral responses, recognizing that many effective measures for prevention and management of NCDs require non-health sector legislation or regulation.
5. Ensure children and adolescents, including those with special health care needs, are considered for the post-2015 development framework. Integrate shared targets across all sectors, including education, gender, ethnicity and other areas that address disparities in underlying determinants of health.
6. Integrate social protection measures and adopt universal health coverage to mitigate the social and financial impact of NCDs.

The International Pediatric Association (IPA) is a non-governmental organization with a membership of 144 National Pediatric Societies from 139 countries, 10 Regional Pediatric Societies representing all areas of the world, and 13 International Pediatric Specialty Societies. The IPA works collaboratively with member societies to mobilize networks of pediatricians for advocacy and programs in child health, working whenever possible with UN agencies. IPA works in close partnership with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) on global vaccine priorities, and with AAP and the Albert B Sabin Vaccine Institute (SVI) on the Measles and Rubella Initiative.

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