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Statement on Agenda Item 15.1 - Preparation for the third High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases, to be held in 2018 - 70th World Health Assembly

Thank you Chair, honourable members and distinguished delegates

I am speaking on behalf of the International Alliance of Patients' Organizations, supported by the International Federation of Psoriasis Associations.

Firstly, IAPO would like to endorse the updated Appendix III of the Director-General's report A70/27 without additional changes and encourage Member States to follow through with the implementation of the recommended cost-effective interventions.

Secondly, we welcome the acknowledgment of the limitations of the cost-effectiveness analysis and the need to consider other criteria when selecting interventions, including impact on health equity. We believe that such an approach, together with an efficient approach of registering contributions from non-state actors, will give good ground for inclusive, effective and result-oriented process, leading up to 2020.

Thirdly, we believe that the updated Appendix III should be strengthened with the recommendations and indications from the WHO Global Report on Psoriasis from 2016, following the official recognition of psoriasis as an NCD by WHO Member States with the WHA Resolution 67.9. The complex nature of psoriasis invokes needless suffering for over 125 million people worldwide. The average psoriasis patient has an increased risk of comorbidities, among which diabetes, CVDs and, as recent research points out, cancer and chronic respiratory diseases. Efficient psoriasis management and early screening of psoriasis patients for other major NCDs is therefore a prerequisite for preventing and reducing the overall NCDs burden.

Ultimately, we urge for additional areas of research to be identified by the WHO, that could support the further implementation of the interventions listed in Appendix III. We are committed to support the WHO and Member States' work on all levels in ensuring the prevention and reduction of NCDs burden.

Thank you for your attention.