UN HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON NCDS - A CHECKLIST FOR SUCCESS

The Third UN High-level Meeting on NCDs will provide Heads of State and Government, civil society, academia, people living with NCDs, including psoriasis, and other stakeholders with the opportunity to shape the global response to NCDs.

What will make the 3rd HLM on NCDs a success? Here is our checklist for a successful meeting.

PLACE & DATE
Hold the meeting during the week of the UN General Assembly in New York, back-to-back with the High-level Meeting on Tuberculosis.

CIVIL SOCIETY, PATIENT ASSOCIATIONS, AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH NCDS are involved in a meaningful, structured and well-resourced way, including through UN Civil Society Task Force and Interactive Hearing.

HIGH-LEVEL ENGAGEMENT
Heads of State and Government should participate in all relevant steps before, during and following up to the High-level meeting.

OUTCOME DOCUMENT
Develop an outcome document including action-oriented, time-bound robust commitments, and promote policy coherence.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?
Share through social media, send it to partners, members, other stakeholders and contact your government today!

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SPREAD THE WORD!
We are all in for 125 million.
PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE
People living with NCDs, including psoriasis, patient associations and civil society are those living through the NCD realities on national, regional and global level. They have an overview of health system challenges, patient experiences, and the needs behind the political, economic and socio-technological factors in communities and societies. Their voice, however, remains largely unheard by decision makers mostly due to lack of meaningful ways of participation, both at the national and global level.

NCD strategies and national programmes need to have the needs of people living with NCDs at their core, and thus their creation should be based on the inputs coming from people living with NCDs and the associations and civil society representing them.

MEMBER STATES CAN:
- At the global level, open delegate programmes for people living with NCDs within national delegations, as an effort to support their participation to NCD-related meetings, while informing national positions based on their input
- At the regional level, create a meaningful way for patient associations to contribute to the creation of regional NCD action plans through consultations, hearings and similar means
- At the national level, ensure participation of people living with NCDs in policy and decision making processes and include an evaluation point in the process that examines whether the proposed policy or decision is in the best interest of people living with NCDs

ACCESS TO MEDICINES, CARE AND UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE
Psoriasis management, similarly to other NCDs management, requires effective care, especially at primary healthcare level, as well as timely diagnosis and access to treatment. In particular, timely diagnosis plays an important role, as people living with psoriasis face higher chances for comorbidities, among which diabetes and cardiovascular diseases, both time-critical in their diagnosis and treatment. Psoriasis treatment in most countries is either unavailable, costly or not reimbursed, thus involving high out-of-pocket costs for people living with psoriasis and other NCDs.

MEMBER STATES CAN:
- Ensure that Universal Health Coverage schemes are equipped to finance treatment for psoriasis
- Strengthen primary health care services to better diagnose, care and manage psoriasis
- Develop guidelines for deeper understanding of psoriasis and its comorbidities and use it as a best practice in NCD management

What will make the 3rd HLM on NCDs a success?
Priority focus areas for Member States
HOLISTIC VIEW OF NCDs
NCDs affect more than a person’s body; they bring in a strong economic, emotional and social impact. People living with psoriasis are less happy than the general population, frequently surrounded by stigma and discrimination, and feel lonely and misunderstood by their family and friends. Primary health care, which is frequently the first contact point with the healthcare system, misses to see this complexity. This limited viewpoint in turn brings more costs for the health systems, limited engagement in the community and social exclusion. NCDs need to be seen from a holistic perspective, considering how they affect the overall quality of life for people living with NCDs.

MEMBER STATES CAN:
- Strengthen health systems by developing guidelines for medical health professionals, in cooperation with people living with NCDs, on how to establish dialogue and improve patient satisfaction
- Actively engage in eliminating exclusion, stigma and discrimination by promoting awareness and behavior change at all levels, including joining efforts on World Psoriasis Day on October 29th every year
- Improve NCDs prevention by implementing the WHO ‘Best Buys’ and develop approaches to address NCDs holistically, to include comorbidity screening, and mental well being

SMARTER USE OF EXISTING RESOURCES IN ADDITION TO INCREASED NCD INVESTMENTS
Management of NCDs is globally underfunded. At the national level, NCD expenditure is often seen as a cost rather than as an investment. Increasing the level of financing for NCDs is a necessity if the SDG 3 goal indicators are to be met. Furthermore, many gains can be made by looking beyond finances, and into maximizing already existing resources, such as time, skills, and human resources. Better management of psoriasis can lead to a positive spillover effect for other NCDs.

MEMBER STATES CAN:
- Create a record of best practices on managing NCDs at national level, which can be adapted and implemented across countries
- Increase efforts in identifying bottlenecks in current NCD management, in connection to time, knowledge and human resources in healthcare
- Implement cross-NCD measures that look beyond silos - for example, early screening of psoriasis patients for diabetes and cardiovascular diseases as one of the best practices
RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY
NCDs are gaining momentum globally due to their devastating impact on the health and lives of individuals, families and communities worldwide. However, the level of financing, action and long-term commitment does not adequately reflect their significant footprint on human lives.
NCDs affect countries in their own unique way and based on different parameters, which is one reason more why acting on NCDs is at the same time an act of solidarity and respect of the right to health, and demonstrated commitment to sustainable development.

MEMBER STATES CAN:
- Demonstrate readiness to actively engage in preventing and reducing the burden of NCDs by making NCDs a permanent discussion item on WHO Executive Board meetings, World Health Assembly and Regional Offices’ meetings
- Set national NCD goals and engage multiple national stakeholders, including patient associations, in indicator-setting, fulfilment and evaluation
- Seize opportunities to make NCDs a priority theme in national, regional and global occasions which aim to raise awareness and motivate action, such as International Days, European Years, development schemes, funding schemes on all levels, learning and capacity development schemes in relevant fields, and more

ABOUT IFPA
IFPA is a non-profit umbrella organization based in Sweden, gathering 56 national and regional patient associations from all over the world.
For the past 45 years, IFPA has continuously sought to resolve the challenges facing the international psoriasis community. In recent years, IFPA has seen inspiring developments in psoriasis advocacy, such as the adoption of the WHO Resolution on Psoriasis in 2014 (recognizing psoriasis as a chronic, noncommunicable, painful, disfiguring and disabling disease) and the publication of the WHO Global Report on Psoriasis in 2016.
To answer to the developments in the global NCD agenda, IFPA launched the Global Psoriasis Coalition.
For more information, visit www.ifpa-pso.com or contact info@ifpa-pso.com

ABOUT THE GLOBAL PSORIASIS COALITION
The Global Psoriasis Coalition was set up in 2016, as a response to the global NCD discussions, and as an outcome of the recommendations in the WHO Global Report on Psoriasis.
The overarching objective of the Coalition is to promote psoriasis in the NCD agenda on all levels, through research, policy, communication and advocacy.
The Coalition unites diverse voices under the need for holistic people-centered and integrated response to psoriasis. Membership in the Coalition is open to non-governmental organizations, professional societies, corporate partners, institutions, foundations and other relevant actors.
For more information and to join the cause, reach out to psocoalition@ifpa-pso.com